Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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Russia Ratifies Agreement on Aid for Refugees, Migrants

MM2811150594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Nov 94 Weekend Edition p 4

[Unattributed report incorporating statements by Galina Karelova, chairman of the Federation Council Social Policy Committee, and V. Podoprigora, chairman of the Federation Council Committee for International Affairs; date, place of interviews not given: "Border Regions' Fate"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Agreement on Aid to Refugees and Enforced Resettlers, signed in Moscow 24 September 1993, has been ratified.

Following the collapse of the USSR, many of our compatriots found themselves "abroad" and in a difficult position. A flood of refugees swept over Russia from virtually all CIS and Baltic countries. Russia was faced with another serious problem: How to provide facilities for its compatriots?

"According to expert assessments," Galina Karelova, chairman of the Federation Council Committee for Social Policy, said, commenting on the situation, "we can expect a deluge of 2-3 million people onto the territory of Russia from the states of the new [novyy] abroad in the near future."

Last year, for every 100 people who left Russia, 250 arrived, and 80 percent of these were Russians. The agreement envisages commitments by the state to those leaving to compensate for the property and housing left behind, to settle mutual accounts, and to reimburse expenditure on supporting these categories of people.

One of this agreement's distinguishing features is that, for the first time in the practice of multilateral relations, states are assuming commitments to create an Interstate Fund for Aid to Refugees and Enforced Settlers.

The provision to the effect that the Consultative Council on Labor, Migration, and Social Protection of the Population of CIS States will give practical assistance in the implementation of the agreements reached, is also being enshrined.

The picture was augmented by V. Podoprigora, chairman of the Federation Council Committee for International Affairs:

"The agreements between the governments of the Russian Federation and the Estonian and Latvian Republics create a mechanism for protecting the rights of resettlers. They do not require additional funds from the federal budget. The expenditure will be borne within the framework of the Federal Migration Program. Admittedly, there are several unpleasant nuances here. The committee has come to the conclusion that the agreements with Estonia and Latvia are on different levels in terms of the implementation of the rights of resettlers. The agreement with Latvia is far 'tougher' in this regard; it restricts, for instance, the export and import of personal property. This discrepancy reflects the real situation in Russia's interstate relations with the Baltic states."

By and large, however, Russia's participation in the agreement in question will finally create a single legal base for settling the problems of enforced migration.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 29 Nov

LD2911065494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0641 GMT 29 Nov 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 29 TASS—ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI, TRUD and other newspapers front-page articles on the results of the All-Russia Conference, at which a 1995 draft budget and a government action programme for 1995-1997 were discussed on November 26.

The newspapers quote President Boris Yeltsin as pointing out that 1994 was not lost for the reform process and that the Russian economy begins to operate according to market-determined laws.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI writes in its commentary that "the government's new hard-and-fast financial policy is not some regular tightening of nuts but is an essential phase of the reform which has become irreversible. Contrary to pessimistic forecasts by the opposition the economy has not fallen into a hyperinflation".

All periodicals highlight the situation in Chechnya.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (Red Star) maintains that the Russian Army has no relation to the bloodshed in Groznyy and that fighting there involves "politicians and hirelings".

As for servicemen who were allegedly taken prisoner there, it has become known that young Russian men were captured in Groznyy and forced to put on the uniform of Russian soldiers.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, for its part, adduces proofs that Russian tankmen, who were taken prisoner, fought on the side of the opposition for money as mercenaries.

NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA (New Daily Newspaper) on President Boris Yeltsin's recent tour of Pskov region and the section of the Russian-Estonian border.

The newspaper maintains that the presidential decree on the demarcation of the border before December 31 will not be fully implemented. Navigation buoys, which were to be positioned on Lake Churskoe along the entire border line dividing the territorial waters of the two states were not been brought to Pskov port in good time.

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KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes about an inquiry, which is being conducted by the Baltic Fleet office of military prosecutors, into the activities of uniformed "businessmen"

TRUD touches upon the unseemly "games" over emerald deposits in the Urals.

IZVESTIYA has learned that the Moscow region prosecutor's office has charged an undisclosed person with murdering Aleksandr Men, a Russian Orthodox Church clergyman.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA writes about the smuggling of narcotics across the Tajik-Afghan border and into Russia.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA runs an interview with Sergey Stepashin about the work of the Federal Counterintelligence Service, whose personnel caught more spies this year than over the previous seven years.

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Grachev: Russia May Be 'Forced' Out of Bosnia

MM2911092194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Mikhail Pogorelyy: "Russian Defense Minister Meets With Danish Commander in Chief"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, met 28 November with General Jorgen Lyng, commander in chief of the Danish Armed Forces, who is in our country on an official visit. The two countries' military commanders discussed matters pertaining to military-political cooperation, in particular specific measures involved in the plan for cooperation in 1995. Purely military problems—cooperation in exercises and peacemaking actions—were examined a little later at the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff, where a plan for contacts between the Russian and Danish Armed Forces was signed.

Gen. Lyng's schedule also includes visits to the Kuban air force garrison, the Leningrad Military District, and the Leningrad Naval Base, as well as a visit to Kaliningrad Oblast where the guest will meet with Baltic Fleet seamen and marines and with the men of the 11th Guards Army. The interest of Denmark, a Baltic state, in this region is quite understandable. However, people in this country do not forget other parts of Europe either. For instance, during the aforementioned meeting with Army Gen. Pavel Grachev, the problems of war and peace in the former Yugoslavia were vigorously discussed.

The Russian defense minister did not hide his viewpoint from journalists. Answering questions at the end of the talks Army Gen. Pavel Grachev expressed concern that the embargo on shipments of arms and military hardware to the warring parties in Bosnia has effectively been lifted. A "window" has been opened, the minister remarked, and this may be used—as is already happening—to step up the scale of military operations. There is also concern over the Bosnian Serbs' reluctance to agree with the Contact Group's proposed plan for the territorial organization of Bosnia. In conditions when we are faced with unilateral decisions and actions, when everyone does as they see fit, Russia may find itself forced to withdraw its peacekeeping contingent.

The Russian defense minister commented with some perplexity on recent statements regarding Russian troops' involvement in events in Chechnya. Army Gen. Pavel Grachev said that a common-or-garden struggle for power is under way there, and mercenaries from Afghanistan and the Baltic state are fighting there on Dudayev's side and quite possibly for the opposition too, and there are Russians there too. However, claims that Russian troops are involved are—to say the least—absurd. Only a militarily inept commander would send tanks into a city without infantry, the defense minister pointed out. If Moscow had anything to do with what is going on in Groznyy, all that would be needed would be a single paratroop regiment, he said, to resolve the problem, within a couple of hours, moreover. The minister also stressed that the Russian Federation Armed Forces have not handed over or sold arms to either side.

Army Gen. Pavel Grachev also voiced regret at the private nature of the recent State Duma hearings on the so-called case of corruption in the Western Group of Forces. The documents submitted by General Burlakov, the minister said, enable everything to be sorted out. It is a shame that they have not appeared in the press. Some Duma deputies are now trying to put a stop to the matter and keep it quiet. The Defense Ministry is interested in finding out the truth, Army Gen. Pavel Grachev said.

NATO Bosnia Raids Said 'Acts of Intimidation'

BR2811144494 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 26 Nov 94 p 9

[Interview with Dmitriy Volkogonov, military adviser to President Yeltsin, by Enrico Franceschini in Moscow; date not given: "Moscow Against United States and NATO; 'Bombing a Mistake'"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Another one of Yeltsin's close collaborators, General Dmitriy Volkogonov, a Kremlin adviser on military issues, confirmed that the bombings of Bosnia "are the wrong solution." He stated during this interview that in Russia there is now a unanimity of positions on the conflict in the former Yugoslavia: positions which, with each passing day, distance Moscow further from the line maintained so far by the United States and the West.

[Franceschini] Why do bombings not serve any purpose in Bosnia?

[Volkogonov] They sometimes serve no purpose in other kinds of wars too: The Nazis razed Coventry to the ground, transforming their action into a verb—to "coventryize"—yet they lost their world conflict. However, in Bosnia the uselessness of air raids is even more obvious. The NATO bombings are nothing more than acts of intimidation and terror.

[Franceschini] It is not like there is a different solution in sight.

[Volkogonov] I remain convinced that in a civil war in particular the most ineffectual negotiations are preferable to fighting. Unfortunately, in the former Yugoslavia people are not taking the experience of the Korean War to heart. In that war the belligerents are still in trenches along the 38th parallel, and the negotiations are still under way even now, with the two sides meeting once a month. However, in the meantime there has been no more war. On the other hand, what effect would NATO raids have? They would provoke a reaction from Serbia. The war would become even more bloody. The military solution would not lead to any good. It is a serious mistake by NATO and the United Nations. Civilians and children have already died from these bombings. By

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acting in this way the UN Security Council is compromising itself in the eyes of the world.

[Franceschini] But NATO supports the bombings in order to defend besieged towns.

[Volkogonov] I do not want to defend anyone. In a civil war it is difficult to say who is guilty. Everyone bears their own responsibility. However, it is for this very reason that the international community should demonstrate its wisdom by putting pressure on the parties involved to sit down at the negotiating table. Even if they stay at the table for a month or a year without results, talking is better than shooting, is it not? There are also many unresolved conflicts in the former USSR. For example, it will take years for the Azeris and Armenians to reach an agreement on how to divide up Nagorno-Karabakh, but in the meantime they have not been shooting at each other for six months, and that is certainly a substantial result.

Russia Faces NATO, CSCE Bosnian Proposals

MM2811152594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Nov 94 p 2

[Article by Aleksandr Golts under the "Topic of the Week" rubric: "Europe's Future: NATO or CSCE?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The NATO air raids on the Krajina and Bosnian Serbs, the main event of the past week, present an observer with a difficult problem. Previous NATO military actions in Bosnia exhaustively demonstrated their absolute pointlessness. Everyone realizes that. The fact that even an armada of four dozen state-of-the-art warplanes cannot force the warring parties to seriously abandon the strong-arm solution. The fact that the idea of forcibly "compelling people to make peace" suffered a definitive collapse in the mountains of Bosnia.

After all, in order to put this idea into effect, a "guilty party" has to be identified—in this case this role has been assigned to the Serbs. But pressure on just one side, according to the logic of internal conflict, inevitably leads to attempts by the other side to use it as an advantage on the battlefield. The Muslims' recent offensive, waged from areas that have been declared safe areas and are defended by the NATO Air Force, demonstrated this unequivocally.

Bombings are pointless not only in the political but also in the purely military context. They cannot force any of the warring parties to surrender. As for a ground operation, it is obvious today that neither NATO nor the United States will run the risk of getting involved in the seething Yugoslav cauldron. Just one question remains: Why commit the same folly for the sixth and seventh time, folly that can only fuel the fire of war?

Like it or not, you do wonder: Might the organizers of these actions have totally different aims from those they are proclaiming? And is the defense of the civilian population of Bihac and the UN forces stationed there not their task at all? That is suggested by an assessment of events by Britain's FINANCIAL TIMES. Recently, it writes, following Washington's decision to abandon monitoring the embargo on arms shipments to the former Yugoslavia, an obvious split came to a head between the United States and its European allies. But all that is now behind them following their joint military operation. What is more, the newspaper believes that it is the bombing that should inspire respect in everyone for Western security structures, in other words for NATO.

Perhaps that is the secret of NATO's stubbornness, its desire for a mandatory show of strength. Let us not forget that an extremely serious debate regarding the future security system on the European continent is the backdrop to the Yugoslav conflict. It is quite clear that at present—following the end of the "Cold War," the breakup of one of the two military alliances that dominated Europe, and the Russian troops' withdrawal from Germany and the Baltic countries—a kind of strategic vacuum has been created on a considerable part of the continent. In conditions where some states are breaking up and others are emerging, this vacuum may lead to the "Balkanization" of Europe and the corrosion of the fundamental principles of pan-European security such as the principle of inviolability of borders.

Incidentally, it was this fact that Russian President Boris Yeltsin pointed to recently. During a visit to the Russian-Estonian border he was forced to remind his neighbors that we will not surrender to anyone a single centimeter of our territory. Russia has today been put in a position where it is forced to strengthen its borders, and how far that is from the recent dreams of a Europe without borders from the Atlantic to the Urals.

Of course, this situation cannot be tolerated. It is no coincidence that two solutions can be glimpsed quite clearly now. First, the preservation and strengthening of NATO as the continent's sole security structure. At the same time a clear desire to expand this military alliance by admitting some "chosen" East European states can be discerned. The aim is quite obvious—to create a new division of Europe. And not, needless to say, to rebuff the "Eastern threat" of which our former Warsaw Pact allies, who are now dreaming of joining NATO, love to speak. The main thing being to cut oneself off from that part of the continent dominated by Russia, which has its own national interests and which is endeavoring to implement them in foreign policy.

At the same time the Atlanticists fail to take into consideration the fact that this separation of Russia and most of the CIS countries from Europe threatens to revive the old suspicions and give rise to new fears, it threatens to cancel out all the positive elements that have accumulated over the last few years in East-West relations. That is why Moscow is proposing something different. Russia has drafted a package of proposals for

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the upcoming summit-level meeting of CSCE states in December. They are all geared to the fundamental reorganization of this international institution. Russia would like to reinforce the CSCE's executive functions. And thus assign the CSCE a central role in ensuring security and stability on the continent.

At the same time it is by no means NATO, whose members number just a few European states, but the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, that is seen as the main CSCE military-political structure, including the maximum number of countries in its work. Russia is proposing to adopt a Code of Conduct, embracing military-political norms for relations between states in the field of security, questions of democratic control over armed forces, defense of human rights and the rights of ethnic minorities. The idea of creating a leadership organ within the CSCE with limited membership on the lines of the UN Security Council is the logical culmination of this program.

After all, conflicts can only be prevented and peacekeeping operations conducted (which is evidently what the purpose of a European security structure should be) if permanent CSCE executive organs exist. For all their consistency and logic these proposals have one extremely important shortcoming: Inveterate Atlanticists are obviously not delighted by them. And it is not very likely that they will be accepted. No, no one, not even the United States, denies the need to reinforce the CSCE's peacekeeping potential. But solely "with NATO support" or, to be more precise, under NATO control. At the same time, as the Russian foreign minister's recent visit to Paris demonstrated, people in France viewed with interest the possibility of creating different mainstays—other than the North Atlantic ones—to ensure security.

In this context the NATO bombings do not seem that pointless. If they are a show of strength ahead of the Budapest meeting. If the Atlanticists have decided to demonstrate what precisely NATO represents—the master in the European home. Only are the people who died not too high a price to pay for this show of strength?

Kozyrev: Contact Group 'Must Be More Consistent'

LD2811201494 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 28 Nov 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Here is Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's view on the situation in Bosnia. He has just come back from the conflict zone. Our correspondents report from Belgrade.

[Unidentified correspondent] Prior to flying to Moscow from the the military airport Batajnica, in the suburbs of Belgrade, the Russian minister spoke to journalists of his satisfaction with the progress of the talks with Slobodan Milosevic and confirmed, once more, his assessment of the key role that is played by the leadership of federal Yugoslavia in the peace process.

[Begin Kozyrev recording] Milosevic is firmly in favor of the peace plan and a peace settlement. I think further steps can be expected from Belgrade in this direction, but of course at the same time, the Contact Group and the world community must be more consistent. I have in mind its steps geared towards supporting Belgrade which, despite the Bihac crisis, is firmly in favor of the peace plan, and attainment of peace in Bosnia. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Hostile Serb Reaction to NATO Air Strikes Cited

MM2811161594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Nov 94 First Edition p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Shinkin: "What Will NATO Bombs Bring—Peace or War With United Nations?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bombs dropped by NATO aircraft have exploded on Bosnian Serb territory. According to figures from the Krajina Army Command, the aircraft carried out a powerful strike not only against Bosnian Serb air defense systems in Banja Luka and Otoka, but also against military targets around Bihac.

And it was not only Serb positions that came under air attack, but the battle formations of Fikret Abdic's Muslim autonomists from the "Autonomous Region of Western Bosnia," who jointly began the storm of Bihac with the Bosnian Serbs. As a result, as is the case whenever there is bombing, not only military targets but civilian installations were destroyed, and there were numerous casualties among the civilian population.

The latest bombing run was approved by UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali himself. "I believe," he said, "that this new NATO air operation was necessary to safeguard the security of UN forces."

But Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic assessed the NATO bombing as the "actions of a criminal regional organization which has flouted all the norms of international law."

The Bosnian Serb leadership is examining the question of declaring the United Nations the "enemy" in the civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Jovan Zametica, adviser to the president of the Serb Republic in Bosnia, stated that the state leadership of the Serb Republic "is now comprehensively studying the question of who is specifically responsibile for launching the new NATO air strikes against Serbian positions in the Bihac area."

If it turns out, he noted in a statement to the local SRNA news agency, that "NATO's unconcealed aggression against us was inspired by the United Nations, we will believe that the United Nations has switched to siding with our opponents. And that will mean war with the United Nations."

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Nonetheless, judging by press reports, the NATO missile and bombing air strikes have one way or another been approved by many countries.

Foreign observers believe that the situation in the former Yugoslavia is a threat to the UN's prestige and is jeopardizing that international organization.

A British analyst noted that now that the United Nations and NATO—which were initially supposed to remain impartial in the conflict—are getting rapidly drawn more deeply into the Bosnia crisis, they are being forced by the actions of the Bosnian Serbs either to leave Bosnia or to essentially begin a war against the Bosnian Serb subunits attacking the "security zones." None of these options is acceptable. The only solution is to force Pale to adopt the peace plan elaborated by the "contact group" for dividing up Bosnia. This is why it is necessary to urgently step up the search for peace and simultaneously exert political pressure on the Bosnian Serbs. In this sense, he believes, Russia is in the best position—it is capable of piaying a decisive role in averting an escalation of the war.

Today in Bonn there will be a long meeting between Andrey Kozyrev and Klaus Kinkel, the heads of the Russian and FRG foreign policy departments. The official German Foreign Ministry spokesman reported that the situation in Bosnia will be the main subject of the coming consultations. In particular, considerable attention will be devoted to "harmonizing the positions" of the FRG and Russia on the Bosnian problem.

West Seen Favoring Muslims at Serbs' Expense

MM2811160194 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 26 Nov 94 p 1

[Article by Aleksandr Sorokin: "Medicine Prescribed by Transatlantic Doctor. Why NATO Lets the Muslims Get Away With It, While 'Punishing' the Serbs"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brussels—The U.S. medicine for all foreign policy difficulties—air strikes—did not have the expected effect on this occasion. The Bosnian Serbs, with the support of Krajina non-Muslims [inovertsy] and Muslims under the command of Fikret Abdic, did not heed the voice of the Security Council and are continuing to harry the Fifth Muslim Corps in the vicinity of Bihac.

The world community's wrath knows no bounds. The Serbs are being condemned both in Washington and in Moscow, not to mention Paris and London. This chorus of boos is preventing attention from being focused on the tension in the Balkans as it mounts rapidly again.

The main blame is placed on the Bosnian Serbs, who refused to accept the plan for a peace settlement devised by the contact group, which Russia was directly involved in. Their decision led to their total international isolation. This is what the Bosnian Muslims were banking on. Their leader, Ali Izetbegovic, makes no secret of the fact that he regards the peace process merely as a stage on the road to the military defeat of the Serbs. His provocative statements, as well as the Bosnian Muslims' provocative actions, which General Michael Rose, commander of UN forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina, has mentioned on several occasions, have escaped the ears and eyes of the world community. The Muslims' armed adventures in the safe areas have not only gone unpunished but essentially have also not been properly condemned even by Russian diplomats trying to heal the bloody nose they got from their transatlantic partners for their attempt to butt in on Iraq's side.

The Serbs were patient. The Muslims lauched an offensive and captured more than 250 square kilometers. The international community kept quiet and did not point out that the Muslims were crudely violating the principles it itself had declared regarding the "safe area" around Bihac.

The Serbs' counteroffensive is now seen at best as "measures incommensurate" with the enemy's provocations. And they are being "punished" for this by NATO aircraft.

Former Yugoslavia is in Europe and the temperature in it affects, above all, the health of the European Continent. As in the days of the cold war and bloc confrontation, they are looking for a doctor on the other side of the Atlantic, although his prescriptions are often unacceptable to Europeans. But they still believe in them. And the "doctor" himself, with his array of powerful surgical instruments, does not intend to back down. Once again he managed to talk his partners-cum-patients into accepting his "plan for stabilization" in Bihac. The idea is for the Serbian military formations to withdraw from the area and for the Muslim-Croat corps thus to be given the opportunity to pull back.

It is not clear yet whose soldiers will ensure the demilitarization regime. It appears that, after Somalia, the Americans do not intend to send in their GI's. We do not know either how long the demilitarized zone regime will be maintained. Until the Muslims regather their forces?

Fears Over NATO's Eastward Expansion Viewed

LD2811222294 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in English 2010 GMT 28 Nov 94

[Commentary by Anatoliy Potapov—read by announcer]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United States has submitted to the NATO Council the draft document to enlarge the alliance in order to (?speed) it to the east of Europe. Anatoliy Potapov has these comments.

On 1 December, the foreign ministers of the 16 NATO member states are to determine their strategy to admit new states from Eastern and central Europe into the

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North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Practical consultations to enlarge NATO started on Washington's initiative. Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia are the first in this queue. These countries' ruling circles often repeat a thesis saying that, in their opinion their states are at present in a so-called security vacuum.

However, it has been announced that at the session of the NATO Council due to be held on 1 December, neither the award of priority to enter NATO nor the exact date (?or) the future members will be determined. The United States suggest that their allies within the next few months should only reach agreement as regards the requirements to be made to the future member states.

Among other things, these requirements concern the measures to be taken by these countries that would be helpful to approximate the state of their armed forces to the NATO standards. Among the terms that are being discussed are some that, in my opinion, may demand that Russia should pay to them the greatest attention. You know, the defense guarantees which NATO grants to its member states are, in the first place, nuclear guarantees and now the NATO countries must answer the following question—will it be necessary to deploy nuclear weapons on the territories of their new allies?

True, parallel to the conception to enlarge NATO, reassuring statements addressed to Russia are coming in again and again. They are aimed to convince Russia that its isolation in Europe is not on the agenda, but now only the general conception to enlarge NATO is under discussion and that in a few years time the international developments may remove this problem from the agenda.

But the question arises how Moscow must react if it is clear that NATO continues to be, in the first place, a military union and granting membership to the new countries, except Russia, is moving East, drawing nearer to Russia's border.

Can it be really true that the covert reason that accounts for this conception of security is the following—somebody is serious when he thinks that Russia again constitutes a serious military threat. One can scarcely believe that is true, but I simply cannot think of any other (?deep thought) or reason that would account for the enlargement of a NATO alliance to extend it to the East.

Commenting recently in THE NEW YORK TIMES, Mr. (?Charles Caption), a foreign relations expert from the Georgetown University, said that the eastward extension of NATO would amount to a gross strategic blunder, resulting in renewed divisions in Europe.

Russia is prepared for cooperating equally with the allies. It might be as early as next Friday [2 December] that a comprehensive NATO-Russia cooperation program will be finally clinched in Brussels. However, Moscow will remain scrutinizingly [as received] apprehensive about NATO's plans to enlarge its membership.

Russia Considers International Discussions

MM2811121694 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Nov 94 p 3

[Commentary by observer Manki Ponomarev: "The WEU and NATO Leadership Is Concerned With Both Maintaining Its Innocence and Gaining Capital"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last week's sessions of the WEU [West European Union] Council and the North Atlantic Assembly [NAA] were bound to attract the international public's attention. The problems discussed and the decisions worked out there were intended by their authors to anticipate the course of the upcoming meeting of CSCE leaders in Budapest in December and to determine for many years to come the fate of Europe and the whole of the transatlantic community, as it is now customary to call it. It is clearly worth therefore discussing this topic in more detail.

For all the diversity of the issues examined in the Dutch city of Noordwijk, where the WEU Council session was held, and in Washington, where the North Atlantic Assembly session took place, the crucial matter was the discussion of the prospects for expanding these military-political organizations and admitting new members into the WEU and NATO from the states of Central and East Europe. True, the approaches in Noordwijk and Washington were different. This was mainly due to the fact that the United States, which is not a member of the WEU, did not participate in the Council's work and did not exert a direct influence on its results.

Until quite recently the WEU was chiefly regarded as the "European pillar" of NATO or, put more simply, as a mere appendage to it. Now the situation is changing markedly. The military-political union of 10 European states is becoming increasingly autonomous and assuming the characteristics of the EU's defense structure. It is expected that after the planned reexamination of the Maastricht Treaty this union will fully merge with the EU and become its organ designed to put joint defense policy into effect.

All this found clear expression in the declaration adopted in Noordwijk, an extensive document formulating the tasks of developing a unified policy for West Europe in the defense sphere. It stresses the need to step up the WEU's activity. And it is a question of not only enhancing its role in keeping the peace and settling conflicts on the continent but developing the union as an effective military organization which fully possesses the appropriate operational potential.

But a question does arise here. The EU and WEU today are far from congruent in their makeup. The former has 12 members (or even 16 as of January), while the latter has only 10. Now, however, increasingly loud voices are heard in West Europe calling for the direct inclusion in

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the WEU of all EU members, including future ones. And that means that the West European military grouping will come right up to the borders of Russia, since, after Austria, Sweden, Norway, and Finland, it is intended in the near future to admit Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Poland, with all the countries of Central and East Europe, including the states of the Baltic states, being admitted in the more distant future.

Of course, the participants in the WEU Council session were bound to realize that the spread of their union to the borders of Russia, Belorussia [Belarus], and Ukraine could split Europe anew and revive the situation of the Cold War era. That is why they recorded in their declaration that with the aim of "promoting stability throughout Europe the ministers stress the special importance of establishing appropriate relations with Russia and Ukraine." But, as was said at the final press conference, they "in effect did not discuss" the question of expanding the WEU. But that does not alter the crux of the matter. They may "in effect" not have discussed the question of expansion, but it remains on the WEU agenda. They are simply continuing the search for a form of words, ways of presenting it without raising misgivings in Russia.

This particularly manifested itself in the special attention paid in Noordwijk to the WEU's associate members (Iceland, Norway, and Turkey) and the union's associate partners (to which category the six states of Central and East Europe plus the three Baltic countries belong). The representatives of all those countries, plus Denmark and Ireland which have observer status, took part in the work of the Council for the first time. And the WEU associate members are not confined to participation in discussion. They are, as is noted with satisfaction in the final declaration, "engaged at the present time in forming forces which come under WEU orders" and are involved in the work of union committees.

A similar picture could also be observed at the NAA session in Washington. There too they discussed the conclusion of a "strategic agreement" with Russia which, according to assembly chairman Karsten Voigt, "will make it possible jointly to establish 'ceilings' for nuclear arms, coordinate actions if crisis situations arise, and carry out measures to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction." But special emphasis was placed on granting full NATO membership to all the European countries which have expressed such a wish. Regarding Russia's fears over the emergence of a cordon sanitaire on its borders, they can be disregarded as there is no basis for them: "Major" NATO units and combined units will not be stationed in East European states. So why should Moscow worry needlessly?

As the Americans, who set the tone in NATO, try to maintain, the expansion of the alliance to the East will not lead to a deterioration in relations with Russia, as in theory Russia will, like the other 22 members of the Partnership for Peace program, have the chance to join the Atlantic alliance. But this is merely in theory, while in practice mandatory conditions for the admission of new members to the alliance are being put forward which it is difficult to describe as acceptable. They include the establishment of civilian control over the armed forces, their reorganization in line with NATO norms, participation in the financing of the bloc's whole activity, and the stationing of allied formations on the territory of sovereign states. That is why all this talk about an "innocuous" movement toward the East has to be seen as a diplomatic ploy, a desire both to acquire capital and maintain your innocence.

The maneuvers being carried out in the West over the meeting of CSCE leaders planned to take place in Budapest at the beginning of December are highly typical in this regard. Until recently no special enthusiasm was being evinced over the meeting. Having rejected out of hand Russia's proposals aimed at enhancing the Conference's role in strengthening stability and security in the the area of its operation, the leaders of a number of Western states spoke with a sour expression on their faces about the CSCE's feebleness and uselessness and about the futility of attempts to enhance its role. Reports even appeared that the U.S. President would not be going to Budapest—there is nothing for him to do there, they said.

And then suddenly everything changed. Numerous articles appeared in the American press about the importance of the Budapest meeting and the upcoming transformation of the CSCE into a powerful organ specializing in conflict resolution and peacekeeping. There is a proposal under discussion that to enhance its significance the CSCE should be renamed the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe and that a large-scale agreement be signed among its members.

The secret of such a change was revealed by THE NEW YORK TIMES. From the Washington administration's standpoint, a recent issue of the newspaper says, the enhancement of the CSCE s role will ease the "task of expanding the number of NATO members in the future through the admission of the countries of East Europe by signaling to the former Soviet republics and Russia, in particular, that the United States and West Europe intend to include them in a future agreement on security."

So it turns out on examination that the proponents of this idea are singing the same old song—expanding the North Atlantic bloc

Russian Envoy on Nuclear Test Ban Talks in Geneva

LD2811224894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2035 GMT 28 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Geneva, 28 Nov—The 37 countries taking part in the UN Conference on Disarmament

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in Geneva have today resumed the talks on a universal and total ban on nuclear tests. At the inter-session meeting, the conference's special committee engaged in this problem met. In the course of three weeks, there are to be discussions held here that began in January this year, and which were crowned in September with the passing of the "transitional draft" in which are outlined the contours of the future agreement on explosions.

"We hope to make considerable progress on such technical aspects of the treaty as an international system of monitoring, verification on the spot, an international data center, an organization that will be set up by treaty," Grigoriy Berdennikov, head of the Russian delegation, said in an interview to the ITAR-TASS correspondent.

"In its significance the inter-session meeting differs in no way from the usual annual session of the conference."

The "transitional draft" is, to a large extent, of a general and preliminary nature. Many of its provisions have been placed in square brackets, which bears witness to the lack of complete consensus on the text of the document. In Berdennikov's opinion "it will hardly be possible to remove all the brackets during the present round," albeit "something is possible, especially on the technical aspects listed above."

"Progress is being made, but unfortunately business is not going as fast as we should like," the diplomat said. The Russian delegation intends to achieve an intensification of the talks process. Precisely this was spoken about at the session of the UN General Assembly by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who spoke in favor of opening the treaty for signing next year so as to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the UN by halting the further qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons.

"This indeed is the aim of the Russian delegation," Berdennikov stressed.

The two-and-a-half months that have passed since the end of the annual session of the disarmament conference have not been a "vacuum" in the work on the agreement. In particular, there have been the five powers' consultations in New York, including on issues tabled for the inter-session meeting.

The success of the present round would help progress at the next annual session, which opens at the beginning of 1995, the Russian spokesman pointed out.

Western Restrictions Continue To Impact Russia

MM2811152794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Nov 94 p 4

[Article by Aleksey Portanskiy: "Cold War on Metal Market Continues"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As a result of continuing Western trade restrictions, Russia is losing $2-3 billion a year—which is comparable to the size of the annual Western aid it receives. But this is not just an economic and trading measure, it is also political—since it constitutes a failure to recognize the fact that we have carried out reform. In other words, in trade Russia is still largely seen as the former USSR, which is why sanctions are applied. The most vivid example of that is the announcement of antidumping measures.

It is an improbable fact that in this year of busy political and economic contacts between Russia and the West—when the G-7 extended its boundaries to become the G-8, when the historic Partnership Agreement was signed with the EU, and when, finally, the procedure for Russia to join the GATT is fully under way—the EU alone has completed or initiated 11 out of 14 antidumping procedures against Russia.

Antidumping regulations serve to protect a market from firms that sell their goods at below cost price.

In the last five years of the USSR's existence our alarm clocks, domestic freezers, pianos, electric motors, and a number of other goods fell victim to West Europe's antidumping measures. Additional duties were levied on them in an attempt to offset the difference between the export price of our goods and the retail price of similar goods in the EU market. And almost always this was a "stop" sign for our exports.

But an entire economic era has passed since then. The West has started to recognize that we no longer have a state trading system. Although this has not made things any easier for Russian exporters. One of the companies affected this year has been the "Solikamskiy Magniyevyy Zavod" ["Solikamsk Magnesium Plant"] Joint-Stock Company. An antidumping investigation into Russian magnesium was announced in the EU in early 1994 and in the United States in April.

Plant spokesman Dmitriy Melnikov told me that the grounds for initiating the procedure in Europe was a statement to the Commission of the European Communities from the French Pechiney company—the sole magnesium producer in the EU—on the damage suffered as a result of the "dishonest" (author's quotes) competition by Russian plants.

Pechiney has indeed suffered some damage—or, more accurately, a certain slump in production—of late. But the reasons for that are many and various—they include the overall economic slump in the EU in the nineties and, strange as it may seem, the backwardness of their technology. It is very difficult to elucidate the extent to which this damage was caused by the "dishonest behavior" of Russian producers. But a well-oiled mechanism moved into action—the relevant department of the Commission of the European Communities embarked on an antidumping investigation.

The key aspect of it is to determine the price of the goods. And in this area, as a rule, the "defeat" of Russian exporters is predetermined. The fact is that antidumping

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measures against Russia are quite different from what they would be against Poland, say. For the latter country is recognized by the EU to be a market-economy country and, in the event of an antidumping investigation, what is established is the Polish prime cost of a commodity.

The West seems to have bestowed on Russia the status of a country with a transitional economy—but in legal terms this has not yet been laid down, and it continues to be viewed alongside China, Mongolia, and Vietnam as a country without a market economy. Consequently, Western partners do not yet even attempt to determine the prime cost of Russian goods—they claim that both our raw materials and our resources are deliberately cheaper than they would be under a market system.

The investigation employs one of the methods developed—for instance, they "construct" the cost of a similar commodity in a third country with a market economy and with a similar per capita GNP to Russia. The price thereby "arrived at" is compared to ours. You do not need a great deal of imagination to realize how extensive the scope is for subjectivity and various fiddles. But the main thing is that the natural and technological advantages that Russian producers may enjoy—as regards the accessibility of raw materials, for instance—are not taken into account.

The technological factor came into play in the Pechiney case.

"The French use the obsolete thermal process to produce magnesium—this requires twice as much energy as the electrolytic process used by us, the Norwegians, and the Americans," Dmitriy Melnikov explained. "Plants with thermal processes have been shut down over the past few years in Japan and Italy."

Here is a curious detail—despite having initiated an antidumping procedure against the Solikamsk Magnesium Plant, Pechiney does not balk at buying its output for its own needs. The high-quality metal which the French company does not produce turns out to be needed by a number of its clients.

In accordance with the antidumping investigation procedure a specially trained investigator was sent from Brussels to Solikamsk to look into the system of management, supply, sales, funding, and so forth at the Russian plant. After the full report is received, the authorized department of the Commission of the European Communities will calculate the dumping differential and establish if any harm has been done to the national industry of a specific EU country.

The practice of the preceding years has shown that such harm is almost always established, and proving that Russian producers are to blame is not a problem. Duty will subsequently be imposed on the goods in question and this, as a rule, makes them impossible to export.

The most surprising point about the Russian magnesium story is probably the fact that, according to the figures, the highest level of exports of the metal at low prices from the former Union countries to the European market was in 1992. But no antidumping provisions were announced at that time. In the EU countries it was willingly bought up not only by consumers but also by producers—to offset the inefficiency of their own technology.

What was the resaon for this?

According to Russian Federation Vice Premier Oleg Davydov, as a result of the badly managed liberalization of foreign economic activity we found ourselves in the late eighties and early nineties with many inexperienced exporters who not only lacked experience but were pursuing very definite goals. Fly-by-night companies, having obtained sought-after export licences, did their business and were then forced to quit the market—surplus metal was sold off from stock, and the state set about restoring order in the exports sphere. It was understandable that the West did not view these temporary exporters of cheap and low-quality metal as serious competitors.

The Solikamsk Magnesium Plant is another matter. Both in the past and in the present it has "played" by the rules. It has become a source of concern to Western companies—the ability of Russian producers to withstand competition at normal prices poses a real threat to Western businesses. And, consequently, as the London METAL BULLETIN aptly put it in its July issue, "perestroyka in Russia is over, but the Cold War on the nonferrous metal market continues."

For many of our enterprises—particularly in the military-industrial complex—exports are still their main chance of surviving in the context of the production slump and the overall economic crisis, Oleg Davydov believes. Consequently, exports that result from conversion and the restructuring of Russian enterprises are the price that, one way or another, the West will have to pay for the demilitarization of the former USSR.

Soskovets on Dynamism in Russia-Japan Trade

LD2811132594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1209 GMT 28 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Golovnin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo November 28 TASS—"The current state of Russo-Japanese trade does not correspond to the real resources of the sides. Lately they took important steps aimed essentially at furnishing a new basis for their economic relations," Russia's First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets told ITAR-TASS.

"Russia accounts for one percent of Japan's foreign-trade turnover while Japan's share in Russia's foreign-trade turnover is less than five per cent. In other words, the two neighbouring countries are faced with the task of

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lending dynamism and stability to their economic contacts and elevating them to a new qualitative level," Soskovets said.

"It is precisely in this context that one should view the documents, signed during the current visit, on further development of the mechanism for inter-state cooperation, and the accords on a large package of credit-and-financial matters," Soskovets pointed out.

The first vice-premier agreed that the expansion of economic relations is hampered by the unresolved nature of the question of the repayment of Russia's debts to Japan, including those inherited from the former Soviet Union.

The Russian Government, he said, does a large amount of work conferring with creditor countries within the framework of the Paris Club and is busy working out a technical procedure and financial terms for the redrafting of the debts in the form of bills of exchange. After this work is finalized, a practical dialogue with the Tokyo Club of holders of Russian debts will begin, Soskovets said.

The vice-premier specially touched upon the undeveloped nature of a legal basis for economic relations. It is hard to expect headway without an agreement on the encouragement and protection of investments and a new document on the prevention of double taxation, Soskovets said.

Citing concrete successful examples of cooperation, the first vice-premier recalled, in particular, projects for the development of oil and gas on the Sakhalin shelf. He emphasised interest in attracting Japanese businessmen to Russia's far east to participate in the establishment of new transportation and communications systems there.

Tokyo Visit Assessed

MM2911090994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Nov 94 First Edition p 2

["Own Information" report: "Great Expectations. Will There Be a Breakthrough in Russian-Japanese Relations?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets, who is on an official visit to Tokyo as head of a major Russian delegation, handed Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama personal messages from Boris Yeltsin and Viktor Chernomyrdin.

They say, inter alia, that the Russian leaders invite Japan's prime minister to pay an official visit to Russia that will serve to broaden political dialogue.

Murayama expressed his thanks for this, but he stressed that his trip to Russia should be imbued with practical content in the interests of developing relations between the two countries both in the economic sphere and when it comes to resolving the territorial problem. In this connection the prime minister invited Viktor Chernomyrdin to visit Japan at a time convenient to him.

During the conversation Oleg Soskovets reaffirmed that the Russian Federation Government intends to rigorously adhere to the provisions of the Tokyo Declaration, noting that there are plenty of problems that Russia has inherited from the former Soviet Union. He advocated making gradual, step-by-step progress toward formulating a mutually acceptable peace treaty, which has not existed between Moscow and Tokyo since the end of World War II.

Russian First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets' visit to Tokyo is geared to resolving specific practical issues and represents an important contribution toward implementing the Russian-Japanese Tokyo Declaration signed in 1993 during President Boris Yeltsin's visit here. One of the most important results of the visit has been the signing of four joint documents, primarily a memorandum on the creation of an intergovernmental commission on trade and economic cooperation, something on which the sides "were unable to agree for over 20 years." Tokyo, as well as Moscow, now has great expectations thereof.

The accord on talks on fishing in the South Kuril region, where Japanese fishermen engaged in illegal fishing are being arrested and fired on by Russian border guards, also constituted an important achievement.

A contract on shipments of oil extraction equipment worth $700 million between Russia's Lukoil and Japan's Mitsui Bussan trading corporation is expected to be signed today. It is thought that the deal will be fully serviced by a loan of $700 million which the Japanese Government has guaranteed. This contract will be the largest financial agreement concluded within the framework of the Russian delegation's visit to Japan.

As a result of its implementation Russia's oil industry, primarily in Western Siberia, will receive a powerful impetus for recovery: Around 2,000 oil wells where extraction has been suspended over the last few years will be demothballed.

The deal is among the most profitable for Russia, but the "trivial matter" of the interest that Lukoil will pay back to its Japanese creditors has not as yet been decided.

The Japanese press noted that, by their intention to create an intergovernmental commission on trade and the economy at deputy prime minister level, the sides are demonstrating their desire to enliven the frozen trade and economic relations. Japan is also demonstrating a positive stance in the belief that the "creation of the commission will be a positive factor for the Russian economy."

Sides Seek to 'Elevate Their Relations'

LD2911102594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1001 GMT 29 Nov 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo November 29 TASS—Russia and Japan reaffirm their mutual intention to elevate their relations to the level of genuine partnership and to consistently implement the agreements, formulated in the Tokyo declaration and the other documents, signed during President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan in October 1993. This is the keynote of the joint Russo-Japanese press statement, released at the end of First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets' visit to Japan.

During the current talks, the document notes, the sides have noted the importance of further stepping up the political dialogue between the two countries at all levels in order to promote bilateral relations and cooperation in the solution of several international problems. The sides have, in fact, confirmed Moscow's and Tokyo's intention to strive for the earliest possible conclusion of a peace treaty.

The parties to the talks have highly assessed the current exchange of views on economic problems, particularly linked with the improvement of conditions for trade and investment, and more active support to Russia in the implementation of several projects. The document notes that an important step was made towards raising the level of the commercial-economic dialogue. It acclaims Tokyo's decision to put off the repayment of the former USSR's commercial debt, insured by the Japanese Government, the term of which expires in 1994.

Both sides have achieved substantial progress in deciding what Japanese technical assistance could be given to the Russian reforms, intended to switch the country over to a market economy. They pin great hopes in this connection on the efforts of the Russo-Japanese inter-governmental commission for commercial and economic matters. A memorandum on its establishment was signed in Tokyo by Soskovets and Japanese Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Yohei Kono. The Japanese government has reaffirmed its intention to help Russia join or take part in the work of international economic organisations, to back, in particular, its accession to GATT-WTO.

The statement notes that the achievement of a joint decision to begin shortly talks on the development of cooperation in fishing around the South Kuril islands can be regarded as an important result of Soskovets' visit to Japan. The Russian first vice-premier, the final document notes, has expressed gratitude for Japan's urgent humanitarian aid to the population of the South Kuril islands, which suffered from a devastating earthquake and Tsunami on October 4, 1994.

Soskovets confirmed the Russian president's invitation to the Japanese premier to pay an official visit to Russia. He also invited Foreign Minister Yohei Kono to visit Moscow for bilateral consultations on commercial and ecomomic problems.

Patience Urged in Territorial Issue

LD2911092194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0841 GMT 29 Nov 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo November 29 TASS—Russian Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets, currently visiting Japan, has called on Tokyo during his talks with the Japanese leadership to be "patient and sage" in its approach to the Russo-Japanese territorial issue. Addressing a press conference at the national press club here today, he noted that "this was one of the most difficult questions, raised by the Japanese side during these meetings."

The first vice-premier expressed the view that some time would be needed to settle the Russo-Japanese territorial issue. He stressed that the sides had confirmed the validity of the bilateral "Tokyo declaration," signed at summit level in 1993, which had laid the foundation for the settlement of this difficult problem.

Soskovets said that the Japanese side had expressed concern about the unstable political situation in Russia. He noted that such fears concerning Russia were exaggerated in light of the recently concluded social concord treaty and several other steps taken by the Russian administration.

Comparing the political situations in Russia and Japan, he called attention to the fact that the situation in the latter remained absolutely stable in spite of the intensive regroupment of forces, which had occurred in Japan during the past one or two years.

Official on Krakow 'Incident,' Expulsion

MM2811125694 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Nov 94 p 3

[Article by Mikhail Tretyakov: "Who Demands the Russian Consul's Expulsion. New Complication in Russian-Polish Relations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Warsaw—The Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs sees no grounds for expelling Boris Shardakov, Russian vice consul in Krakow, from the country, Andrzej Olechowski, head of the Polish foreign policy department, has declared.

What, then, has happened, and why has the question of the Polish side's declaring the Russian consul in Krakow persona non grata arisen? It was like this. On 7 November, the anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, approximately 15 people from right-wing organizations in Krakow held a demonstration near the Russian General Consulate. It later turned out that it had not been sanctioned, since its organizers had not received appropriate permission from the local authorities.

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Returning from the city at that time, Shardakov was stopped by a local journalist who recognized him. Our diplomatic staffer was asked about his attitude to this measure. Its nature could be judged from the following slogans: "Beat the Bolsheviks, save free thought!" This banner hung on the fence of our general consulate. Another slogan could be seen in front of the entrance to the building: "Communists, we remember your crimes!" etc.

One of the demonstrators put a provocative question to Shardakov in a demanding tone: "When will the memorial to Soviet servicemen in the Barbican (downtown Krakow—correspondent's note) be removed?" He replied that this would be according to the corresponding agreement recently signed between the two countries.

Next to be touched upon in the ensuing discussion were some historical questions connected with Pilsudski's intervention in Belorussia [Belarus] and Ukraine in 1920 and the fate of 60,000 Red Army men who went missing on Polish territory. It has to be said that the demonstrators conducted the discussion in an aggressive tone and were not stinting of insulting attacks on our country. Our consul's replies drew a parallel with Katyn in this issue and compared the policy of Pilsudski with that of Stalin.

The demonstration was, in fact, illegal. Therefore it has to be understood that Consul Shardakov was expressing his own opinion in a private conversation. But certain political forces here are trying to portray this almost as Russia's official position.

Eight days later certain Polish mass media started mounting a new purposeful anti-Russian campaign over this incident. At the same time, strange though this may seem—maybe this is precisely what its initiators wanted—it coincided with the visit of Andrzej Milczanowski, Polish minister of internal affairs, to Moscow, during which he succeeded in removing the tension in Russian-Polish relations in connection with the postponement of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's visit to Warsaw.

At the time it was not ruled out that, following elucidation of the incident involving Russian passengers at one of Warsaw's stations, which led to the visit's deferment, V. Chernomyrdin would come to Poland at the beginning of December. Then suddenly a new complication arose in relations between our countries.

The impression is created that certain political forces in Poland are seeking to torpedo the Russian premier's visit by any means and to prevent the revival of economic relations between Warsaw and Moscow.

During Chernomyrdin's stay in Warsaw it is planned to resolve two fundamental questions, in which both Poland and Russia have an interest. It is a question, above all, of settling the mutual debts, which remain the chief obstacle in the way of activating trade relations. Second, the construction on Polish territory of a section of the gas pipeline from Russia to West Europe. A huge investment, which promises Warsaw tremendous profits. Specialists on the Vistula believe, not without grounds, that it might give a boost to the further development of the Polish economy.

Those who initiated the fanning of anti-Russian feeling in Poland have achieved some success. The timing of Chernomyrdin's visit to Warsaw is no longer being indicated, and it is being said that it cannot take place before next year. A pity. Particularly zealous in fueling the anti-Russian campaign are those Polish mass media that are dominated by Western capital and nationalists of the Confederation for an Independent Poland—a small party seeking any means of making its presence felt on the country's political stage.

Polish television's first channel also provided wide coverage of the Krakow incident. Its cameramen practically bent over backward to show the mass nature of the demonstration outside the Polish Foreign Ministry building, demanding Shardakov's expulsion. They really had their work cut out, since there were only some 20 demonstrators plus journalists. People could not be found who wished to come to the Russian Embassy in Warsaw and collect signatures against our consul.

For five years in succession the local press has not stinted on the basest methods in its coverage of historic events and of present-day reality in our country and on insulting attacks on not only its former leaders but also its present president.

The Polish foreign policy department must be given its due: It has not let itself be strung along by those who seek to erect a notorious "Berlin wall" between our countries but has treated the Krakow incident in a calm and considered manner. And yet some people are evidently very much opposed to rapprochement between Warsaw and Moscow and to our peoples trading and living in friendship.

Danish Commander in Chief on Visit to Russia

MM2911100094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Defense Ministry Press and Information Directorate: "Official Visit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] General Jorgen Lung, commander in chief of the Danish Armed Forces, arrives in Russia on an official visit 27 November. During the visit talks are scheduled with Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister; Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces; and Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev, Russian deputy defense minister. Gen. Jorgen Lyung and Col. Gen. Mikhail Kolesnikov will sign a plan for contacts between the two countries' armed forces in 1995.

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The visit's schedule also envisages a visit to a Moscow Oblast air force garrison in Kubinka, visits to troop units in Leningrad Military District and Kaliningrad Defense Area, and meetings with their command. The visit will last until 2 December.

Kuwait Positively Asseses Chernomyrdin's Visit

LD2811172594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1548 GMT 28 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Lebedev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City November 28 TASS—The Kuwaiti Government discussed the results of the Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's visit to Kuwait and expressed the hope that the meetings held in the Kuwaiti capital and the agreements and protocols signed by the two countries "will promote the strengthening of relations and cooperation between the two friendly countries."

At a meeting on Sunday [27 November] the Kuwaiti Government highly assessed Russia's "positive stand" on the settlement of the Kuwaiti crisis. He said Russia invariably supported Kuwait's just cause and all the resolutions of the U.N. Security Council that put an end to hostilities in the north in the Arabian Peninsula in February 1991. The Kuwaiti Government expressed gratitude to Moscow for its continued effort in the interest of consolidating peace and security in the region on a basis of the observance of all decisions of the world community by Iraq.

Masol, Chernomyrdin Talks in Moscow

LD2811215994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1941 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Ministers Viktor Chernomyrdin of Russia and Vitaliy Masol of Ukraine "reached an understanding on completion of the negotiating process on certain outstanding issues in the bilateral relations" in their talks behind closed doors in Moscow Monday [28 November], a source in the Russian negotiating team told Interfax.

He said that the prime ministers had told the appropriate agencies of their countries to bring to a completion on November 29 the talks on the Ukrainian $635 million debt to Russia for the supplies of fuels and other goods and sign, in the light of the results of the talks, a contract on gas supplies to Ukraine in December.

The two prime ministers agreed that state delegations of the two countries, headed by Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets and his Ukrainian counterpart Yevgeniy Marchuk, would hold talks on the Black Sea Fleet on December 6.

Consultations will be held simultaneously on restructuring Ukraine's overdue debt for the supplies of Russian fuels and other goods in 1992 and 1993.

Consultations will be held on December 15 on the wording of a Friendship and Cooperation Treaty to be signed by Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kuchma.

The two prime ministers also told the heads of the two state delegations to report back on the results of all the talks and consultations before December 20.

A senior official of the Russian negotiating team said that with this schedule of bilateral talks and consultations President Boris Yeltsin would hardly go ahead with his official visit to Kiev in 1994 to sign the Friendship and Cooperation Treaty and to reach essential agreement on key issues in bilateral relations. The visit is more likely to take place early in 1995.

Postpone 'Comprehensive Treaty'

LD2811212294 Moscow NTV in Russian 1900 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The signature of a comprehensive agreement between Russia and Ukraine, which was due to take place during the visit of President Yeltsin to Kiev at the end of November, has now been postponed until the next year. This has emerged from the negotiations of the Ukrainian prime minister [Vitaliy Masol] with [Russian Prime Minister] Viktor Chernomyrdin and Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Bolshakov, chairman of the Interstate Economic Committee. The main purpose of the meeting was to issue instructions to respective delegations. The heads of cabinets have instructed them to prepare in the first half of December their positions on unresolved issues. The key issues are textual disagreements in the main treaty, the Black Sea Fleet and Ukraine's debts to Russia.

In the meantime, in spite of Ukraine's debt of $3 billion, we have learned that a contract to supply Russian gas next year will allegedly be signed tomorrow. It appears that Moscow values its geopolitical relations with Kiev much higher than the financial ones. Considering Ukraine's economic predicament, it is very unlikely that it will be able to pay Russia back in the foreseeable future.

However, Kiev is not agreeing yet to the Kremlin's offer to pay the debts by such non-traditional ways as haulage concessions, or transferring to joint ownership the enterprises that are of interest to Russia's fuel and power complex.

Incidentally, the postponement of the comprehensive treaty automatically postpones indefinitely the adoption of such important documents as the dual citizenship agreement, visa-free travel, and military cooperation—all in all over 40 drafts that are due to regulate the relations between formerly fraternal republics.

Expert Says Moscow May Cut Fuel Oil Exports

LD2811175294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1705 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia may cut fuel oil exports over the winter period and increase export duties, a

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senior expert close to the Russian government believes. At present, the export duty on fuel oil runs at ECU 8 per one tonne.

He says the measure is caused by a drastic situation in fuel and electricity supply to the national economy over this autumn and winter.

Because of a lack of fuel stocks, the situation with power generation has been critical this month at fuel-powered electric stations in Karelia and Primorsky, Khabarovsk, Arkhangelsk and Murmansk regions.

It is now known that the government plans urgent fuel supplies this year and early next to get the country's energy complex going.

An extra 6.4 million tonnes of fuel oil, 32.7 billion cubic meters of gas and 23 million tonnes of coal will be supplied to power stations this month and in December The same indicators for the first quarter of 1995 will run at 8.2 million tonnes, 48.5 billion cubic meters and 35.8 million tonnes respectively.

Russia's fuel oil exports ran at 9.8 million tonnes in the past six months. It exported more than 2.25 million tonnes of fuel oil to CIS and Baltic states in the nine months of this year.

Lukoil Signs $700 Million Contract With Japanese Firm

LD2911101394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0946 GMT 29 Nov 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo November 29 TASS—A contract on the granting of a credit of 700 million U.S. dollars to the Russian Lukoil company was signed by Lukoil President Vagit Alekperov and the Japanese Mitsui Bussan company here on Tuesday [29 November].

"It is the first time a Russian firm gets a commercial credit abroad without Russian Government guarantees. We hope that other foreign companies will follow the example of our Japanese partners in the near future," Alekperov told ITAR-TASS.

Under the contract, which has become a major financial agreement concluded during the current visit of Russia's First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets to Japan, the credit is be granted for a period of seven years and is to be used for the purchase of oil production equipment.

Approximately 20 per cent of the entire amount of equipment is to be bought in Japan on the account of the credit and the rest will be purchased in Russia, other CIS countries and on the world market.

"During the first two years, we are exempt from the repayment of debts on the credit, which will enable us effectively to use new production facilities which are to come into being as a result of the credit. Due to this credit, we shall be able to produce additionally 42 million tonnes of oil," the Lukoil president said.

This contract is very important not only for the Russian firm but to Russia as a whole as well, Alekperov said. "According to our estimates, this contract will bring Russia about 2,000 million USD," tne Lukoil president emphasised.

It is no secret that foreign companies do not quit trust Russian firms and grant credits to them reluctantly and only with firm guarantees from the Russian Government. "From this point of view, one can say that our contract is a breaktrhough in this respect and provides a realistic example for Western bankers," the Russian company president pointed out.

The Lukoil is already negotiating with Japanese partners for the allocation of a new large commercial credit in future for the construction of an oil processing plant, Alekperov said.

Equal Rights to Ethnic Russians in Moldova Pledged

LD2911112194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1035 GMT 29 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 29 TASS—Ethnic Russians will enjoy equal rights with all other citizens of Moldavia [Moldova], the Moldavian parliament speaker said at today's meeting with Valeriyan Viktorov, deputy speaker of the Russian Federal Assembly's upper house. Petr Luchinskiy is currently on Moscow visit upon invitation of the Russian legislature.

Moldavian leadership "has made and will make every effort to ensure that people of any ethnic origin, including the Russian- speaking population, feel themselves equally-righted citizens of the united and sovereign Moldovia," Luchinskiy said.

Russia and Moldavia must develop cooperation in all spheres, Luchinskiy said, "as we have much to tie us together". Viktorov agreed with this statement, confirming that Russia "intends to continue furthering bilateral relations" with Moldavia.

Kondratyev: Russian Army Should Remain in Dniester

LD2811190194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1609 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Russian Deputy Defense Minister, Colonel-General Georgiy Kondratyev has urged the personnel of the 14th army to continue service in Transdniestria and not to pay much attention to the withdrawal agreement signed with Moldova.

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"Forget about the agreement. It was signed but there is no mechanism of withdrawal therefore militarymen should engage in their planned activities," the general told at a Sunday meeting with the leadership of the 14th army at the end of his visit to Moldova and Transdniestria.

After the statement the commander of the 14th army Lieutenant-General Aleksandr Lebed stood up and said:"Yes, sir."

According to well-informed sources, during the visit to Kishinev [Chisinau] Kondratyev discussed with the Moldovan leadership the possibility of militarymen from the 14th army acting as peace-keepers after Russia unilaterally decided to cut down its contingent. The same sources told Interfax that in case militarymen from the 14th army join the peace-keeping force they will be subordinate to the joint control commission and this requires the consent of all the sides to the commission.

Meanwhile, the deputy speaker of the Moldovan parliament Nikolay Andronik turned down this possibility. He told a news conference that the Moldovan leadership is categorically opposed to the 14th Army becoming a peace-keeping force in Transdniestria.

He said that if this is permitted, the withdrawal agreement will be blocked and it will become unrealistic to hope for its implementation in three years.

Observers believe that in Transdniestria which has a chance of filling the peace-keeping contingent with its own formations instead of Russian is unlikely to accept the proposal and it will be blocked.

On October 21 the Prime-Ministers of Russia and Moldova Viktor Chernomyrdin and Andrey Sangeli signed in Moscow the agreement on the withdrawal of the 14th Russian Army in three years.

Russia Faces Changed Priorities, Issues, Options

MM2311144694 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Nov 94 p 5 Russia Has Fewer Foreign Policy Opportunities Than the USSR"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Smolenskaya-Sennaya—Only recently it would have been hard to imagine the present chaotic development of events in Europe. Indeed, after the end of the Cold War mankind discovered that it was in a state of complete disorder. Particularly the former socialist countries. Liberation from the USSR's diktat and the disappearance of the Warsaw Pact could not resolve all their problems.

As regards the former USSR, the situation is still more serious. It has been liberated from itself. From the ideology which had been humiliating people for over seven decades. From its "allies." From its own territory. Finally, from statehood.

A whole bunch of different theories exist about Russia, its place and role in Europe, and its historical mission. It seems to be one of the Russian intelligentsia's favorite occupations to moralize on this subject. It is sad that this speculative theorizing (albeit, of course, "reinforced" by various computations) is transformed, with a kind of fatal inevitability, into Messianism in respect of our own and other peoples.

In this regard Europe is slightly wiser. It lives, develops, and, where necessary, defends itself against Russian Messianism. Its second coming on our soil is a special case. The point is that Marxist Messianism—the most odious in terms of both form and content—nonetheless came into being in West Europe. It is another matter that it found the most zealous disciples on our soil.

A line has been drawn between Russia and Europe for understandable and very banal reasons. Russia is a half-European, half-Asian country in terms of not only its geographic location but alsothe way of life, traditions, and world outlook of the people who inhabit it. It is peculiarly, profoundly, and, seemingly, ineradicably religious, having returned easily to paganism during the communist period. It has a very rich and original culture. It traditionally bows down before others (which, however, does not rule out suspiciousness, hostility, and even hatred toward them) and it lacks confidence in itself.

The time has come to finally draw up a positive concept of the development of Russia, Europe, and, along with them, the world. Let us ponder: Practically everything positive that was done meant the rejection of some "no." Of course, repudiation of the arms race and ideological confrontation was a necessary stage in East-West relations. But stereotypes of various kinds are too deeply etched in consciousness on both sides of the collapsing and already destroyed "Iron Curtain." While finding within themselves the strength to reject former absurdities, people both there and here have been unable to cross the invisible barrier beyond which "no" turns into an all-European and subsequently an all-civilization "yes."

The USSR no longer exists. Its former republics have congratulated each other and themselves on independence. But they still retain the former Soviet Army on their territories and total interdependence. The old problems remain. Many of them have exacerbated. The continuing anarchy and growing nationalism harbor not only considerable regional dangers but also dangers to all of civili

An unbiased and unideologized observer can be in no doubt that for everyone everything now depends on the state of affairs where statehood, the population, and democracy are most vulnerable. That is, on Russia above all, since all the other former Union republics are practically entirely dependent on it. The total risk is extremely great both for this vast territory, and for the neighboring countries, and for European security and stability. Political instability in Russia poses the greatest danger.

Following the breakup of the USSR, many people have been complaining that the world has become monopolar.

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This is an optical illusion. The fact that one of the poles of the bipolar world has ceased to exist certainly does not mean that it has mutated mechanically into some unipolarity, even a linguistically incomprehensible one. But there is a reliable means of making a fairytale come true: artificially to counteract this imaginary unipolarity.

In reality the world is now extremely multipolar. The ending of the USSR's diktat in respect of many states has led to not only positive but also unforeseen negative results: the revival of interethnic, interreligious, and other tensions. The disappearance of one of two superpowers from the political map of the world as a consequence of the USSR's breakup could not fail to bring about a redistribution of influence and a shifting of centers of gravity in international relations. Nationalism, interreligious dissension, a thirst for power, and a thirst for vengeance rushed into the vacuum which had been formed. The system of international relations got out of control.

The change in the correlation of forces in the world, its conversion into a multipolar world, and other consequences of the USSR's breakup determine the need to reinterpret the country's entire foreign policy. A situation has taken shape in which it is vital for Russia to work out a realistic and considered foreign policy course geared to the future. Particularly as internal instability, declining production, the collapse of the economy as a whole, and catastrophic inflation together with a failure to solve problems within the CIS framework have sharply reduced Russia's foreign policy valence in the international arena. Without a consonant foreign policy reaction to the challenges of the times (including those which Russia itself has thrown down) a national catastrophe is unavoidable.

The arrival of a new quality of international relations imposes the need to take a new look at other countries, above all those in West Europe. This is already partially being done, starting from the NATO Council's Rome session.

It is known that expert diplomacy is capable of working wonders. The alchemy of the word can be a powerful factor of both creative and destructive force. Both Russian and foreign history abounds in examples where skillful diplomacy has not just improved the position of states but has even saved them. Of course, with clear and distinct guidelines which accord with genuine national interests.

In the present situation in Russia all its foreign policy and diplomacy must undoubtedly be aimed, above all, at resolving internal problems. But how is ensuring human rights and the population's social protection to be made the unconditional priority without a tough and impartial record of the true state of affairs in the country?

There can be no doubt that we will, at best, mark time unless we acknowledge that *the country is in a calamitous state*. Of course, this runs counter to great-power thinking and still more to superpower thinking. But the choice is simple: either we accept words that contradict the truth of life, as in the communist period, or we try to do something real to improve our internal and external situation.

There are questions as bitter as gall. One of them is this: Do we want to be a superpower possessing the power of life and death over a planet of people, or a normal country? If we want to be, can we? As regards the question of our ability to be a normal country, at present, unfortunately, an unequivocally negative reply must be made to it. This is conditioned by the country's economic situation, the population's low living standards, and the political instability. As regards the first question, it is a matter of taste. The ordinary Russian mentality says: We Russkies beat Genghis Khan, Napoleon, and Hitler. We even erected the Victory Memorial! Of course, it is possible and necessary to take pride in victories. But need we prepare for future victories? For those that cannot and must not be?

Here is the key question of Russia's domestic and foreign policy. Namely: In what way and by what means is the country's national security to be ensured? There can be no doubt that the system of our foreign policy priorities has changed significantly since the USSR's breakup. Relations with the former union republics have objectively come to the forefront. Economic, military-strategic, and, finally, simply human aspects (including social, cultural, and other aspects) dictate the need to resolve without delay the problems which have accumulated in them.

The defense of the rights of ethnic Russians (the term "Russian-speaking population" is highly dubious and, moreover, harmful and dangerous) resident outside Russia requires an extremely considered attitude. On the one hand, without going anywhere, overnight they found themselves abroad. Of course their political, civil, economic, social, and cultural rights must be observed, at least at the level of the norms of universal standards, since the latter provide precisely the minimum level that civilized states (or states which consider themselves civilized) are obliged to observe. On the other hand, it is not all that simple. Because the defense of human rights can only be effective on two indispensable conditions. The first of these is that the problem is to some degree depoliticized and that there are no double standards. In other words, there must be no difference of approach to ethnic Russians in Ukraine, Tajikistan, or the Baltic region, for example. In just the same way as if Russian politicians and diplomats show concern for "Russian speakers" in other post-Soviet republics, they are obliged to show concern for "foreign speakers" in Russia. The second condition is that there should be painstaking, permanent dialogue with the corresponding governments for a joint search for a solution to the problem. Statements and declamations of various kinds are not only no substitute for this but frequently have the

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opposite effect. It is sad that the defense of ethnic Russians has become small change in the political struggle in Russia.

One more point. In recent years an intensive rebirth of the national consciousness of the peoples inhabiting the territory of the former USSR has been taking place, at times overflowing. But let us not disregard the fact that Russia (then still "socialist") played far from the least role in this process. People complained about literally everything: They did not have their own academy of sciences or even their own communist party! At the same time they maintained that they had given up everything to the union republics. Nobody counted up how much was taken from them. In just the same way as those republics did not count up how much they took from Russia and believed themselves aggrieved. All this formed a dangerously explosive mixture after the breakup of the USSR.

"Proletarian internationalism," which, as we know, was one of the pillars of communist ideology, exacerbated the situation after the Union's breakup. The point is that, in addition to natural population movements within a single country caused by mixed marriages, labor migration, and other natural, everyday causes, a planned policy was being implemented with the aim of "creating a new historical community—the Soviet people." Its essence was simple—to efface national differences by Russifying other nationalities, propagating the Russian language, ousting national languages, and sending more Russians to where there seemed not to be enough of them. At the same time this was stage-managed not only from Moscow but also by the party leadership of the union republics themselves.

So far there has not been a sensible answer to the question of where the Russian border actually runs. We are not going to ponder the point of our troops' presence in other newly independent states or the justification for their participation in the Tajik-Afghan clashes. But the fact that Russians are protecting Tajikistan's state border does not negate but rather reinforces the need for a normal border with Tajikistan and with other former union republics. The alternative to that is reintegration and the creation of a confederation on CIS territory. The advantages—political, economic, and human—of such a solution are obvious.

Russian policy's main task in the years ahead is clear: It is to ensure internal and external stability. In view of the conflicts and instability in the "near abroad," this is a very difficult task. Furthermore, it is insoluble without a Russian peacemaking mission. Above all, peacemaking presumes that the state undertaking it has sufficient reserves of stability and endurance to do so. Not just externally but internally. Activeness in the de-escalation and prevention of foreign conflicts in conditions of political instability in one's own country could have truly dire consequences for everyone. But a country that engages in peacemaking operations without having sufficient weight and authority in the eyes not only of the warring sides but also of the rest of the world can easily lose face, to put it mildly.

Of course, genuine peacemaking is inseparable from strict neutrality in regard to the conflicting sides.

But it would be an oversimplification to interpret peacemaking exclusively as an operation to keep the peace and separate warring sides, act as intermediary in negotiations between them, and so forth. The concept is significantly broader than that. It includes ensuring the security of one's own borders, disarmament, and preemptive measures to avert tension of any kind—interstate, interethnic, interregional....

Peacemaking is impossible without reliable national security and sufficient political and military potential. In other words, without strong armed forces capable of deterring any threat to Russia's national interests.

The task of peacemaking, objectively speaking, is also the "big task" facing West Europe. It is hardly necessary to dwell on this point in detail: Suffice it to recall the justification for the nuclear deterrent advanced by the NATO states and France. But whereas in the Cold War years the issue centered on deterring communist totalitarianism, the situation has changed since the conflict in Yugoslavia. It has changed primarily because the West has encountered new dangers emanating from the East: instability, aggressive ethnic nationalism, the expansion of the post-Soviet mafia, the growing risk of man-made and natural disasters with continental and, possibly, global consequences. This far from complete list shows the need to take an approach to peacemaking that is closely and organically interconnected with a new world order.

The state that Russia finds itself in dictates the need for a certain self-restraint. However, that certainly does not mean that the country should reject the role of a world power. It has all the potential necessary for that so long as, of course, a balanced and realistic foreign policy is pursued.

I believe that, given the present state of affairs in Russia, the CIS, Europe, and the world, the external border of the CIS should be regarded by us as a forward-based line of defense. Such an approach would make it possible to avoid confusing Russia's national interests with the interests of the other CIS countries without scrapping the pre-existing defense infrastructure.

Russia is currently in a situation where a very great deal in the world depends on how it handles its potential. In the military sphere we are talking about nuclear forces capable of attacking any part of the globe and about powerful conventional armaments.

As regards nuclear weapons, the picture is clear: Their basic and sole function is deterrence. The situation is different when it comes to the other components of our

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military might. I believe that the time has come to reshape our potential and create a rapid reaction force. But not in the traditional military sense, except for peacemaking operations, but for humanitarian actions, for emergency rescue operations in our country, in "the near abroad," and in all other parts of the world.

The role of the European component, once it has been properly launched, of Russia's foreign policy must grow. Let us remember the very recent history of our country's (then the USSR) relations with France, the FRG, Britain, Spain, Italy, and other West European states. Let us remember their role in creating the supporting structures of pan-European cooperation, in finding a balance of interests between our country and, for example, the United States. And let us ponder the question whether Russian foreign policy's current emphasis on developing relations principally with the United States is justified, whether attaching secondary importance to partnership with West Europe is justified. Particularly in conditions where Russia has declared its intention to join the Council of Europe.

Immediate measures must be adopted to prevent a humanitarian disaster such as might be caused by a flood of migrants, above all refugees and displaced persons.

The chief task of our foreign policy is to help eliminate a situation whereby a country is unsuitable for human habitation. Everything must be geared to this—from the quantity and quality of armaments to the degree of cooperation with foreign states.

Human rights and the importation of democracy will be a very important element of foreign policy doctrine. The unconditional observance of all international human rights commitments in practice rather than in words is of vital importance. More active use should be made of international experience in solving social problems, and we must attain a new level of collaboration with international organizations dealing with social issues.

All available international means of resolving difficult conflict situations and safeguarding minorities' rights must be employed. More active involvement of authoritative independent specialists and international humanitarian organizations as experts, mediators, and observers to provide political methods of settling disputes present fine opportunities for this.

Special significance now attaches to collaboration with the republics of the former Union in this sphere. Throughout the former union it is necessary to form a unified system for the protection of the individual. Active use can be made of existing UN and CSCE procedures in this sphere.

We have exported revolution in the past. Now we need to import democracy. The creation of its infrastructure and the formation of a civil society are a very important foreign policy function. There is a wide range of possibilities here. But international cooperation in the human rights sphere must be made more specific, with the focus shifting from holding all kinds of seminars and conferences to solving real problems in practice.

We must be honest and say that Russia has fewer foreign policy opportunities than the USSR had. It is simply absurd to say that Russia is a great power following the breakup of the USSR. Now there are more problems. If we are going to act in the traditional way, we will just get bogged down in them and stop bothering. But why not look at how other countries have switched to a new status?

Omnidirectional defense is a strategy that corresponds to modern realities, when it is clear that NATO, for example, does not intend to attack us, but it is not clear where and when a real military threat might emerge. There is another equally attractive model for safeguarding security—neutrality. The logical question is: If nuclear missile delivery vehicles cannot, as is well known, be directed at the skies (Oh, Russian foreign policy demagoguery—there was a time when it tried to do this!), then is not omnidirectional defense a great nuclear power's neutrality? The answer to this should certainly be in the affirmative.

In current conditions Russian foreign policy is literally doomed—if, of course, it wants to maintain its identity and its place in the world—to assume that the "first circle" of its national interests lies in the near abroad, where it must pursue a policy of peacemaking and neutrality geared primarily to stabilizing the country's internal and foreign policy position. This cannot be achieved without stabilization in the other newly independent states. Second place will go to Europe—the EU, NATO, the CSCE. And, finally, third place will go to relations with the United States.

Both Russia and West Europe badly need to create what you might call comprehensive security. It must be genuinely all-embracing and cover all possible sources of violence and instability—from the fight against crime and the solution of the problem of potential Chernobyls to political, economic, ecological, and military security.

A great deal, a very great deal now depends as far as Russia, the former union republics and Europe are concerned on what kind of foreign policy is conducted by the Kremlin and Smolensk Square.

But the West bears a significant part of the responsibility. It is obviously not enough to say that confrontation has been replaced by partnership, even though this may flatter the vanity of Western politicians and diplomats.

National Affairs

Presidential Department Plans 'Sweeping Inspection'

LD2811200194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1627 GMT 28 Nov 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; Edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Yeltsin's supervisory department has drawn up a plan for sweeping inspection of four federal ministries in the first half of 1995. These include the inspection of the ministry for external economic relations in February-March, construction ministry in March-April, finance ministry in April-May and state property committee in May-June.

The inspection will mainly relate to the implementation of the president's social and economic policies, methods of work with republics and regions, the use of budget resources and ministries' economic activity including commercialization, well-informed sources told Interfax. The problem of ministry staff and staff salaries is also to be examined.

The measure is intended to give an appraisal of how optimal the existing structure of central government is and whether or not some of the departments duplicate the functions of other departments and to what extent the numerical strength of their staff is justified.

The findings are expected to help towards decision making on the reduction of government staff by one third as envisaged by the task set by the Russian president and prime minister. The newly-established special commission led by First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets is to make concrete proposals on the issue.

Experts of the government, the finance ministry's supervisory department and if necessary, law enforcement bodies will also be involved in the inspection. IF [Interfax] Note: A proposal to tighten presidential control of the ministries and departments came during Yeltsin's meeting with regional leaders on July 14. The measure is explained by the need to raise management efficiency and fight against bureaucracy. The compilers of the plan believe that a lack of initiative or inaction in finding ways to implement presidential decrees are discrediting the institution of presidency itself.

Government Session Considers Draft Laws

MM2911101394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Nov 94 First Edition p 1

[Report by Vladimir Kucherenko: "At the Russian Federation Government: Will Control Be Restored?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Even though the treasury holds sizeable blocks of shares in many privatized enterprises today, this is not saving us from defaulting, the fleecing of joint-stock companies by unscrupulous managers, or the winding up of many "unprofitable" subunits which ensure production safety.

P. Mostovoy, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property, has submitted draft government decrees on the representation of the state's interests in joint-stock companies, the procedure for appointing treasury "delegates" to these structures, and a model agreement for the fulfillment of these functions.

But there was no unity of view. Differences arose, for instance, over the question of who would attend joint-stock company board meetings on the state's behalf. The State Committee for the Management of State Property's experience shows that civil servants—officials—cannot cope with this: Continuous work entirely divorced from state service is needed. L. Bochin, chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Antimonopoly Policy, agrees with this. Consequently, we need to delegate powers not to officials but to competent specialists drawn from commercial structures.

One other thing is unclear—can the same person represent the state at several joint-stock companies simultaneously? Justice Minister Yu. Kalmykov believes not. A. Chubays believes that it is possible—otherwise, where will we find representatives for the 2,300 joint-stock companies where there is already a federal shareholding?

The third "stumbling block" relates to which state officials should be members of these structures. The State Committee for the Management of State Property and the Russian Property Fund are upholding the priority of their own departments—with A. Chubays' support. But the Ministry of Fuel and Energy, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Railways, and the Ministry of Architecture, Construction, Housing, and Municipal Services are insisting that officials from sectoral ministries have seats on the board, and are complaining about the dominance of the State Committee for the Management of State Property and the difficult conciliation procedures.

L. Bezlepkina, Russian minister of social protection for the population, put forward the idea of adopting a law "On Social Services for the Population in Russia." Submitting the draft law at the government session, the minister reported that the document envisages, in particular, the creation of a unified system of social services. Moreover, "the draft law guarantees the right of all citizens to social welfare and defines the basis for free services and the procedure for establishing payment for services."

On the basis of the discussion the government on the whole approved the draft law and, after partial finalization, it will be sent to the State Duma.

The session also examined the draft law "On Amendments and Additions to the Law 'On Social Protection for Citizens Exposed to Radiation As A Result of the Chernobyl AES Disaster'", which removes social contradictions on questions of compensation payments and concessions to certain categories of citizens.

Compared to the existing law the proposed draft envisages a number of fundamentally new provisions. In particular, it is planned to finance spending not only out of the federal budget.

The government approved the draft law on the whole and decided to submit it to the State Duma once it had been finalized.

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Filatov Fears Early Elections Possible

LD2811173894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1723 GMT 28 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 28 TASS—"The year 1995 is dangerous because we may slide to early elections," Sergey Filatov, head of the Russian president's administration, said.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS, Filatov said that "the opposition will be against the adoption of the 1995 budget by the State Duma in order to provoke a disbandment of the government or the lower house of parliament and initiative early elections of the State Duma and the president." "If we allow ourselves to be led by the opposition, we will ruin economic reform," he warned.

He recalled that Yegor Gaydar, chairman of the Democratic Choice of Russia Party, was the first to have mentioned the threat of early elections in Russia. "Yegor Gaydar defined the threat facing our society at a plenary meeting of his party and called on the democratic forces not to make a mistake."

To overcome destabilization connected with the risk of early elections, Filatov believes it necessary "to pass the 1995 budget in December on the basis of conciliatory procedures and minor compromises."

"The absence of an approved budget causes lax discipline and slovenliness. Only a tough budget can help make 1995 and subsequent years a period of economic growth," Filatov said.

The presidential chief of staff also pointed out that, as President Boris Yeltsin said in his November 5 address to the State Duma, under the Constitution, the failure to pass the budget is not an ample enough ground to dissolve the government.

FCS Director Stepashin Sues Zhirinovskiy

LD2811134694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1210 GMT 28 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 28 TASS—Sergey Stepashin, director of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service, on Monday brought in a lawsuit in Moscow's Sokolnikiy district court against leader of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. Stepashin turned to court for the reason that Zhirinovskiy accused him of "cooperating with Israeli secret services". Zhirinovskiy said this in the State Duma on November 18.

The lawsuit instituted by Stepashin is of personal character and had been prompted by "unjustifiable insulting sallies" by Zhirinovskiy, said Vladimir Tomarovskiy, deputy chief of the public relations centre of the Federal Counterintelligence Service.

Up to 6 Million CIS Migrants Expected by Year 2000

LD2811214594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1332 GMT 28 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Liliya Kuznetsova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 28 Nov—According to the estimates of the Federal Migration Service (FMS), by the year 2000 from 2 to 6 million people are to move to Russia from countries of near abroad, Tatyana Regent, head of the Service, told ITAR-TASS today.

According to her, the 4 million "margin" can be explained by the fact that for the time being it is difficult to forecast future inter-ethnic relations within the republics of the former USSR and the way they are going to affect the outflow of Russians toward Russia. If inter-ethnic problems are solved in a civilized way, the forecast number of migrants will reach 2 to 3 million, but if they aggravate, then 4 to 6 million. About 400,000 migrants will come to Russia from Trans-Caucasus, next to 3 million from Central Asia and Kazakhstan, and 400-500,000 from the Baltic countries.

At present, the FMS head added, there are over 600,000 refugees, more than 1 million forced resettlers, and about 500,000 economic migrants in our country. In 1994, for every 100 people leaving Russia there were 250 people coming to our country. She noted that Russians accounted for 80 percent of them.

MVD, FCS, Other Bodies Confer on Fighting Crime

MM2911094594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Yuriy Potapov: "Decision To Combat Crime Scientifically"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An international scientific and practical conference entitled "Personal Safety and Crime" has completed its three-day work at the Russian MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] Law Institute. Leaders of a number of State Duma committees and MVD, FCS [Federal Counterintelligence Service], and Federal Government Communications and Information Agency personnel delivered reports.

Academician Major General S. Zybin, leader of the conference's organizing committee and chief of the Law Institute, pointed out that scientific methods and new technologies will be recommended for introduction into the sphere of ensuring personal safety and fighting crime.

Lawmen Speak on Kholodov, WGF Case Investigations

MM2811134994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Anatoliy Dokuchayev: "There Is No Case Against the Western Group of Forces. Russian Deputy

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General Prosecutor Oleg Gaydanov Made That Statement at a Recent Meeting of the Club of Mass Media Chief Editors"]

[FBIS Translated Text] First Deputy Interior Minister Mikhail Yegorov and FCS [Federal Counterintelligence Service] Deputy Director Nikolay Kovalev also took part in the meeting which was devoted to analyzing matters linked to attempts and encroachments on journalists' lives.

Leaders of law enforcement organs and the FCS said that all the cases are being specially monitored by the General Prosecutor's Office and the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs]. At the same time it was announced that most of the tragic events were caused by "mundane reasons" and only one-fifth were linked directly with journalists' politics or professional activity. Mikhail Yegorov asked the chief editors to turn to the MVD for help in cases where journalists are in danger; there are special ministry subunits to handle this.

Journalists were informed that the first suspects in the case of Dmitriy Kholodov, the MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS journalist who died as a result of an explosion at the editorial office 17 October, have emerged. One has been arrested. According to Oleg Gaydanov, analysis of the material that the General Prosecutor's Office has gathered together gives reason to believe that his death was most likely linked with his professional activity. A group of specialists from law enforcement organs and the FCS is working around-the-clock; it comprises 15 investigators with experience of clearing up premeditated murders. To date 250 people have been interrogated as witnesses and 10 forensic examinations carried out. It has been established that the "deadly attache case" contained a booby trap. The course of events preceding the journalist's tragic death has been established. In particular Dmitriy Kholodov's 4-5 October trip to Chechnya has been examined along with his assignment to Ryazan Oblast.

Representatives of law enforcement organs answered journalists' questions. In particular, the following question was asked: "What is the status of the case of corruption in the Western Group of Forces [WGF]?" Oleg Gaydanov replied that there has been and there is no case against the WGF. Cases involving offenses by individual military department officials, including members of the WGF, are now being investigated.

Media Issues

Yeltsin Sends Message To State Duma on Broadcasting

LD2811191394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1721 GMT 28 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 28 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin proposed to deputies of the State Duma to bring the Duma's resolution of October 14, 1994 "on regional state television and radio broadcasting" in conformity with the Russian Constitution.

The president stated this in a message to Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the State Duma, the text of which was received by ITAR-TASS from the president's press service today.

The head of state notes that this resolution violates some provisions of the Constitution of the Russian Federation and proposed to the Duma to bring it into line with the Fundamental Law of Russia.

Specifically, the message says "Part Two of Article 103 of the Russian Constitution envisages that the State Duma has the right to adopt resolutions only on issues which fall within its jurisdiction under the Constitution of the Russian Federation".

Besides, the president believes that this resolution was adopted in violation of the requirements of Part 2 of Article 90 of the Russian Constitution which says that decrees and orders by the president of the Russian Federation are obligatory for execution on all the territory of the Russian Federation.

On December 22, 1993 the president issued decree 2255 "on the improvement of state control in the sphere of news media" which abolished the Ministry of Press and Information of the Russian Federation (the Department on Television and Radio Broadcasting is a structure under this ministry) and charged the Russian Federal Service on Television and Radio Broadcasting to finance regional state TV and radio companies.

In his message Boris Yeltsin stresses that "as a matter of fact the State Duma proposed to the Russian Government to violate the decree of the president of the Russian Federation thus also violating the Constitution of the Russian Federation".

Law on Media Support Protested by Yeltsin, Others

MM2811123894 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 25 Nov 94 p 1

[Statement by President Yeltsin, dated 24 November; undated statement by the Russian Federation Committee for the Press; and commentary by ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI, under the general heading "The Press and Power"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Statement by the Russian President

Despite the forthright protests of the democratic public and prominent figures from the worlds of science and culture and despite the stand taken by the democratic

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and independent press, the State Duma has given a third reading to the Law on State Support for the Mass Media. This law presents a grave danger to the independence of the press, radio, and television. It contains a threat to the most important gain of Russian democracy—freedom of speech. It marks a return to a monopoly of opinions and is a covert form of introducing political censorship.

I regret that this law originated in the State Duma which is trying to crudely foist it on the public.

As guarantor of the Constitution and the democratic rights of Russian citizens, I declare that I cannot allow encroachments on freedom of speech and of the press. I shall take the necessary measures to protect Russian democracy from the threat.

[signed] B. Yeltsin.

24 November 1994.

Statement by the Russian Federation Committee for the Press

On 22 November the State Duma gave a third reading to the federal Law "On State Support for the Mass Media and Publishing in the Russian Federation."

Despite the serious criticisms from leading specialists in the Russian publishing and printing industry and the journalist collectives of national and regional newspapers and contrary to the reasoned objections twice presented to the State Duma by the Russian Federation Government, a third reading has been given to a law which is not professionally motivated but is purely ideological. The purpose of this law is obvious: disregarding professional interests and the laws of the economy, narrow corporate political circles want to achieve monopoly control of Russia's entire information area.

The mechanism whereby the press is given substantial benefits, a mechanism devised, incidentally, by the government together with the country's Union of Journalists, is no more than a disguise for an obvious fact: This is an attempt to establish tight control over publications using the so-called national fund for the development of the mass media.

Without a shadow of doubt this could deal a tangible blow to the country's printing industry because the concentration of the power of the politicians over the professionals in the present economic period will do nothing but tend to disorganize the sector's management and disrupt the programs for its modernization.

The Russian Federation Committee for the Press deems it necessary to convey to the president, the government, Federal Assembly deputies, and the Russian public the deep concern of printers, publishers, and journalists at the adverse consequences that this law will entail if it is implemented.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI Commentary [subhead]

The Russian Federation State Duma has given a third reading to the Law "On State Support for the Mass Media and Publishing in the Russian Federation." In the months that the law has spent traveling along the corridors of the Duma, grave misgivings have been constantly voiced in the press, on television, and at meetings of prominent journalists as to whether this law will work out badly for the press. Several days before this the Duma also unthinkingly rubber-stamped the thoroughly antidemocratic law on information, which was given its third reading. Many questions remain over the law on the television and radio service. All these draft laws originated at the Duma Committee for Information Policy and Communications. The committee is isolating itself from critical journalists without considering it necessary even to refute their arguments, prompting the conclusion that it simply has no convincing answer.

Newspaper Chiefs Suspicious of New Media Law

LD2811221294 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 28 Nov 94

[Report over video by correspondent Ivan Pankov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The law on state support for the mass media adopted by the State Duma does not seem to enjoy the full support of journalists. This has been confirmed once more by a debate at the club of editors in chief at the Moscow House of Journalists.

[Pankov] [Video shows meeting, Poltoranin panelling] The policy of financial subsidies for newspapers from the country's budget has become obsolete and the press should not be counting on it in the future, Mikhail Poltoranin said at the club meeting. He is in charge of the Information Policy Commission at the House of Journalists. Though, to be fair, it has to be said that in the past by no means all of the newspapers could bank on these subsidies. As far as the press is concerned, the way out of poverty for them now is a law on state support for the mass media that contains many benefits. Naturally, without objecting to them, editors in chief still cautiously regarded the articles of the law that envisages the creation of a national foundation for development of the mass media and a watchdog council. It seemed that Mikhail Poltoranin failed to convince the editors in chief that they will benefit from these law articles. The newspaper chiefs questions implied the suspicions that the creation of such bodies was just another cunning way of controlling the press, or that the foundation may become such a control body under certain circumstances.

Economic Issues

Foreign Policy Line Linked to Large Foreign Debt

MM2811132794 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 24-27 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Yelena Ovcharenko under "Diplomatic Courier" rubric: "Paupers Go to Paris"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] "Up to the eyes in debt." This is the first thing that came to mind after the size of the Russian Federation state debt was disclosed at parliamentary hearings in the Duma. It turns out that it totaled $112.7 billion as of 1 January 1994 and it will have grown to $130.4 billion by the end of next year. The figures become even more threatening against the background of the endless foreign jaunts of our "leaders." The premier's to the Persian Gulf countries, the Federation Council speaker's to Spain and Portugal, the Foreign Ministry chief is spending a week in Paris.... There are reports from everywhere saying: Everybody is going to help, we are not going cap in hand. Vice Premier Oleg Davydov announced the "major success" of the talks with Saudi Arabia—deferment of the payment of the 100 million [currency unspecified] debt—and the possibility of Russian weapons deliveries to that country. But he had not even arrived back in Moscow when the Saudis denied all this. Another thing. NATO is again "flexing its muscles," as we used to say in the Soviet period. But how else can we describe this military operation whereby an aerial armada carried out a very powerful strike against an insignificant airfield in Serb Krajina? Few people are convinced by the feeble "cries" from Smolensk Square [location of Russian Federation Foreign Ministry] that this is not the best method. Russia is behaving in exemplary fashion in the UN Security Council. Why? Because we are "up to our eyes in debt...."

Minister Denies Reports of Mandatory Sale of Hard Currency

LD2811220094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1941 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Russian deputy prime minister said Russian exporters would not be made to sell all of their hard currency incomes before the country's economy is stabilized.

Oleg Davydov, who is also minister of foreign economic relations, denying a newspaper report, told Interfax in an exclusive interview that he had said neither during his recent visits to Middle East Gulf countries nor before that that the government planned to make 100-percent sale by exporters of their hard currency revenue mandatory.

Although such practice exists in countries like Poland or Hungary and the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations is studying it, "it is not preparing any proposals to that effect for the government," Davydov said, commenting on a story in Saturday's issue of Moscow's KOMMERSANT DAILY. The system "would be a possibility if the budget deficit could be narrowed down and inflation considerably reduced, but the matter won't be raised either today or in the immediate future," he said.

"It is our aim to make our foreign economic policy predictable, so we aren't going to present anyone with any surprises," he said.

Today Russian exporters have to exchange for rubles half of what they receive in hard currency.

Melikian Supports Forming Commission on 1995 Budget

LD2811185494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1609 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Russian Labor Minister Gennadiy Melikian fully supports the formation of a conciliatory commission which should continue work on the draft of the 1995 federal budget. In his opinion this is an optimum solution because it is almost unrealistic to hope for the conventional adoption of the budget because of its toughness.

In a Monday interview with Interfax Melikian admitted that the budget is strategically good and well-planned. He said the opinion is not shred by those guided by populist ideas and bear no responsibility for the implementation of the budget.

Still the minister said several matters are not very thoroughly worked out. In his opinion the selling of state bonds is an absolutely unrealistic way of solving the deficit problem. It would mean leaving the economy without investment resources and undermining the beginning of economic recovery, he said.

Melikian described the intentions of the Duma to raise minimal wages from 20,500 to 54,100 rubles as a purely populist decision, an indication of the beginning of the election campaign of several groups.

"It is necessary to raise minimal wages, but neither the federal, nor local budgets would be able to cope with such a rise," the minister stressed.

Controlled Prices Said Often Higher Than Free Prices

LD2811220294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1941 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prices controlled by the local authorities are often higher than free [prices] and grow quicker, First Deputy Russian Economics Minister Yakov Urinsson told Interfax.

According to the studies carried out by Economics Ministry's experts, in Samara, Novgorod and other cities, where prices are not controlled by the local authorities, they have increased 1.8 times since the beginning of the year, while the regulated prices in Volgograd have grown 2.2 times. The free price for vegetable oil in Samara increased 1.4 times, while in Ulyanovsk the regulated price grew 1.9 times.

According to the Economics Ministry experts, the level of free prices in most regions of Russia is lower than that of the regulated ones. In Krasnodar, where prices are

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regulated, one kilo of meat costs 3290 rubles and in Rostov, where prices are liberated, its price is 2940 rubles.

Coal Miners' Leader Questions IMF Counsel

MM2811151794 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 25 Nov 94 p 4

[Interview with Gennadiy Mikhaylets, chairman of the Council of Kuzbass Territorial Committees of Coal Industry Workers, by Aleksey Bolshanin in Kemerovo; date not given: "This Report Is Not in the Least a Treasure"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kemerovo—Gennadiy Mikhaylets, chairman of the Council of Kuzbass Territorial Committees of Coal Industry Workers, visited Washington as a member of a delegation to discuss a report by the World Bank which states that it is concerned to extricate Russia's coal industry from crisis. Here are his impressions.

[Mikhaylets] Let me say right away that the proposals made in the report simply shocked me. For instance, it set the task of reducing Russia's annual extraction to 160 million tonnes. It says that 287 million tonnes were extracted in 1993 and that industry took the coal but only paid for 160 million tonnes—so that is the figure used as a guide. That is, it suggests cutting extraction by the 127 million tonnes which, the report's authors believe, Russia simply does not need.

Moreover, if you scrutinize the plans, they recommend cutting extraction in the more promising fields. Thus the Kuzbass 1993 level of 101 million tonnes is supposed to be reduced to 43 million tonnes. In other words, the number of people employed in the Kuzbass coal industry should be cut by 213,000. Over half! It is easy to imagine what would happen if that army of miners were put onto the street.

The report does not take climatic conditions into consideration. It is at the very least absurd to compare Russia with the United States and its subtropical areas.

[Bolshanin] What dictated these approaches to the Russian coal industry on the bank's part?

[Mikhaylets] In the last three or four years the United States has lost its foreign coal market, that is obvious. The reason is simple: Very cheap coal from Colombia, Australia, and Africa has taken over.... America would not like to have Russia as a competitor too....

Moreover, we do not know how to trade. Widespread barter trade benefits the West alone.

[Bolshanin] Representatives of the authorities went with you to Washington. How did they view the proposed measures?

[Mikhaylets] Whereas "Rosugol" tried to uphold its own concept, albeit one that needs polishing, the Ministry of the Economy stance came as a complete surprise to me. Its representatives said that this was an interesting report and would help us to get reform moving.... Only, in what direction should we get it moving?

In short, voices can now be heard within the government regarding the need to accept the directives outlined in Washington.

[Bolshanin] What guides the Ministry of the Economy?

[Mikhaylets] It is hard to tell. But it is not the interests of the state.

Needless to say, the report does contain interesting ideas, and we are bound to associate and work with the World Bank; but it is just dangerous to eagerly accept everything that it proposes: The West's own interest in Russia is too great.

Official Says Duma Needs To Adopt Land Code

LD2811213494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2019 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia has carried out the first stage of a land reform in which the population obtained a direct access of land and 95 percent of collective and state farms were reformed. As a result, most of arable land became a private, joint or joint shared property belonging to citizens, Nikolay Komov, chairman of the Russian Land Resource and Land Use Committee, Roskomzem, told INTERFAX Monday [28 November].

He said that in three years of the reform 286,000 farmer households had been set up ploughing nearly 12 million hectares and nearly 44.3 million families obtained land areas for housing construction or garden plots (7.9 million hectares with a total area of arable land equal to 210 million hectares). Nearly 15 million former collective farm members and state farm workers obtained two to 15 hectare land plots.

Komov did not believe, however, that administrative orders could carry the reform any further. He said that the State Duma had to adopt a Land Code as soon as possible, following which land leases, prevalent in the West, would be widespread in Russia.

Ministry Presents Controversial Farm Policy

MM2811121794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Nov 94 p 4

[Part two of three-part IZVESTIYA Analysis Center article "Trillions for the Countryside: Where Did They Go? Who Did They Go To? What Did They Go On?": "2. Allocating a Little to Each Will Finish Off Everyone"; for part one of series, see pages 28-31 of 28 November Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT]

[FBIS Translated Text] The time has come to share out the budget cake. But the present budget was approved only recently—in summer. At that time everyone was

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animatedly discussing the victory of the agrarian lobby, which had grabbed an unprecedentedly large share, a fact which yielded the Agrarian Party considerable political dividends and demonstrated its growing influence. But how did this benefit the countryside, society, and the consumer of agricultural produce? This is a topical question, especially when viewed against the background of the current disputes over next year's draft budget.

It Isn't All That Easy To Distinguish Defeat From Victory

No one doubted the fact that the agrarians were the winners when the budget was approved in summer. But there are great differences of opinion on the actual form that this victory took. Strange as it may seem, even when there is an officially approved budget you can still hear people quoting different figures about the funds allocated to the countryside: FROM 8 TRILLION RUBLES TO 18 TRILLION RUBLES.

There are reasons for the differences of opinion. The system of budget funding for our agriculture is too elaborate. It is implemented through various channels which become intertwined on their way to various destinations. It is even debatable what should actually be counted as financing for the countryside.

Part of the resources are allocated on a returnable basis, part on a nonreturnable basis. Part is distributed via the Ministry of Agriculture, part via other departments. There are different ways of totting up the financial support for agriculture and the agro-industrial complex.

Let us recall here that after the budget was approved, many politicians and the mass media were reduced to indignation because 8 trillion rubles [R] had been allocated to agriculture. In actual fact, total budget appropriations—that is, planned allocations from the federal budget for enterprises and organizations in the agro-industrial complex—amounted to R18,125,600,000,000.

Thus the agrarian lobby's victory was even greater than had been declared. But that was only a victory in terms of the amount requested. Now that the new budget share-out is being discussed, few people remember how realistic the previous claims and "victories" were.

Incidentally, the recent resignation of Agriculture Minister Viktor Khlystun is closely bound up with that illusion. As agriculture minister he couldn't "lobby" for funds for the countryside because he realized that, while it is right and proper to try to obtain money when some exists, it is political brinkmanship to promise money when there is none.

We in our newspaper called the agrarian minister's stance statesmanlike; his opponents called it a betrayal of the peasantry's interests; while he himself constantly felt uneasy because he knew that the countryside needed funds, but not in those areas where they were being allocated. Furthermore, there was no extra source of funding to be had, yet the existing source was too small. He tendered his resignation back at the beginning of the year because he felt that he had been undermined as a scientist and that it was senseless to serve as an official under the state's present agrarian policy. He was persuaded to stay first until the sowing campaign was complete, then until the harvesting was complete. At last the time came.

Pitying the Cat, They Cut Off His Tail Only a Piece at a Time

But those who are campaigning fiercely for an increased share of the budget cake seem to care little for the present state of the countryside and its actual financing. It is very easy to win the sympathy of the peasants and the consumers of agricultural produce by trying to get more funds for the countryside. It seems to be for the benefit of the people. Although if you consider things sensibly, what is the point in fighting for a share-out of money that doesn't exist? Money which the peasants will not be able to use and which by no means every farmer who knows how to feed us really needs.

Let us look at how the money allocated to agriculture this year was spent. We are not even going to begin by returning to the land, to those places that are full of surprises, to look for the "black holes" where the money disappears; instead we are going to concentrate on the official funds allegedly allocated to develop the countryside and keep us fed.

According to the assertion and the calculations of the specialists from Gaydar's Institute for Problems of the Transitional Period, the result of the intensified agrarian lobbying this year has been that the agrarian sector's share of the planned budget spending on the national economy in 1994 has risen from 22 percent to 27 percent. For comparison's sake the share of spending on industry has fallen from 24 percent to 17 percent.

The proportion and absolute value of the state's support for agricultural producers have risen sharply—they include state investments in the agro-industrial complex and all types of subsidies and compensation payments. What has the money been spent on?

First the figures. There have been many debates and differing interpretations over the figures. The various reports and summaries from the different departments and analytical and statistical services offer different versions. We have carried out our own analysis based on the raw data of the **Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Finance, the Russian State committee for Statistics, and a number of analytical institutes and services. This is the picture we obtained.**

This year it was officially proposed that federal budget appropriations for the agro-industrial complex would be R18,125,600,000,000 when all the items of expenditure are added together. The figure actually paid out was R8,303,400,000,000. In other words, 45.8 percent of the

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total. When these articles were being prepared for publication another R383.7 billion were being processed.

Is that a lot or not? How does this figure break down and what yield has it produced or will it produce?

The most well-known item of expenditure which is ditressing to everyone but the peasantry is SUBSIDIES AND COMPENSATION PAYMENTS. These are direct, nonrefundable payments from the budget. The figure planned for this year is R1,168,800,000,000. The figure actually paid out is R561.4 billion. Just what are we all subsidizing and compensating the countryside for? The budget allocated R24.1 billion to cover part of the cost of equipment acquisition and that figure has been paid out. The figure allocated for mineral fertilizers was R409.1 billion, while the sum actually paid is R145.7 billion. The budget shortfall for this item was fatal. The peasants themselves cannot afford to buy the amount of fertilizer they need. Even the funds allocated in the budget would not be enough for the amount of fertilizer that the soil needs. What has actually happened is that 22 kg of active fertilizers have been applied per hectare in Russia, which is not only less than in any other relatively agrarian country but is simply disastrous for soil fertility—today and in the future.

Some R259.9 billion were allocated for pedigree stock-raising and elite-grade seed cultivation, but only R171.3 billion have been paid out; the sum designed to offset part of the cost of compulsory insurance is R135 billion, the figure paid out is R28 billion; instead of the R83 billion intended to cover half the cost of feed shipment, R62.8 billion have been paid; R44.1 billion have been paid out for the production of flax fiber and hemp instead of the planned R104.4 billion; the veterinary waste reprocessing plants [vetutilzavody] received R8.2 billion instead of the planned R19 billion; the amount paid for agricultural aviation fuel was as planned—R4.6 billion; fishery enterprises received R8.1 billion for fuel and energy, which is in accordance with the planned figure, while the amount paid for heating homes and hothouses—R63.5 billion—was less than the planned R73.8 billion; lastly, the amount planned for grain for bread production was R47.1 billion but the amount paid was R1 billion.

It was planned to allocate R249.6 billion for the development of private farming, including subsidized bank loans. In fact R112.2 billion have been paid, which represents 45 percent.

It was also planned to subsidize the repayment of interest on bank loans taken out in 1992-1993 by other peasants aside from private farmers—to the tune of R100 billion. According to our information the figure actually paid out is R84 billion.

There is another important item of expenditure—the fund for the leasing of equipment to peasants. The figure set aside for this is R1 trillion but not a kopek has been paid out yet.

To All Sisters...

Who in the countryside has been favored financially and is grateful to the agricultural lobby, and who has been shortchanged?

Unfortunately, everyone in the country thhinks the same about state financing. The money isn't enough to maintain their activity, let alone develop it. The situation in the agrarian sector today is such that the present level of funding is the final blow to it. **The state cannot give enough funds to everyone in general so it tries to give some to each individually.** Thus it is killing everyone slowly—it feels sorry for the cat so it cuts off its tail a piece at a time.

You can analyze any item of expenditure and confirm that fact. Take the irrigation systems, for example. Budget funding for them is only enough to prevent them from collapsing and to somehow keep them going. Operating costs have to be cut. This will inevitably mean that systems increasingly fall into disrepair and become unreliable. It will be far costlier and more complex to repair them when that happens than to invest the resources necessary for modernization now.

The situation in oil production is exactly the same. The plants are on the verge of closure. No money is being allocated for modernization or the construction of new enterprises. There is a constant, unceasing struggle to obtain the money simply to stop individual plants and all the plants together from closing today, tomorrow, or the day after that.... But that is not the way to resolve the problem, that will only make matters worse. And even though the resources allocated in this way are meager for a sector like this, they are a considerable part of the budget and are an extra burden as far as we are concerned.

The bulk of state investments, **according to the analysis of the specialists from the Institute for Problems of the Transitional Period,** is being directed into the processing and food industries—a sphere which traditionally lags behind and suffers from underfunding. The state's aid, in those analysts' opinion, could be effective in terms of developing the whole food complex if it were carried out intelligently or at least fairly thoughtfully—with a clear aim, clear-cut priorities, and anticipated effect. But what is actually happening does not match those criteria at all.

For example, the budget included substantial funds for investments in the sugar industry. The logic of those who allocated budget funds seems sensible. The majority of the sector's refineries were built and equipped in the distant past, often before the revolution. It is utterly impossible for them to become competitive in the open market today without major state support.

But this is where the fundamental question arises. Does the state actually know what it wants? After all, it is necessary to choose: Either we have really major state support, which presumes the creation of our own sugar

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industry (in recent years half of Russia's sugar requirements have been met by imports, including from former union republics, primarily Ukraine), or we end the pointless support for enterprises that are barely alive, a support which is burdensome to the economy and the people. Both options are fundamentally sound, or at least represent a basis for discussion, but a choice has to be made. But what choice is there? Unfortunately, at the moment funds have been allocated to what is the worst of all options: enough to ensure survival but not enough for development.

Yet sugar beet production is one of the most profitable subsectors in agriculture today. This means that there are quite powerful reasons for private investments in this sector. And the state could play an initiating role here without creating holes in our budget pocket. But no steps are being made in this direction.

Such is the situation in principle—in virtually every item of expenditure on the countryside. Money is being allocated. But not in sufficient quantities to have any appreciable effect on production. What is perceptible, on the other hand, is the loss of those resources from the national economy. For confirmation of that conclusion you only have to look at the figures for the return on investments in relation to agricultural output.

Pearls before Swine

What have we, as consumers, gotten from our countryside by dramatically increasing its financial support this year? Sadly, a fall in the production of virtually all types of food. According to the latest figures from the **Russian State Committee for Statistics** the production of grain, sunflowers, sugar beets, potatoes, and vegetables is considerably lower both compared with last year and with the average indicators for the past five years. The production of grain and pulse crops, for example, fell by almost 10 million tonnes compared with last year, sunflower production was down almost 0.5 million tonnes, beet production was halved, potato production was down by over 4 million tonnes, and vegetable production was down by 1 million tonnes.

But the interesting point is that the structure of the production of various types of produce attest to the state's completely absurd financial support for different forms of economic operation. The bulk of the potatoes and vegetables, for instance, are cultivated on private subsidiary plots, which did not get any budget support at all. Yet that represents 70-90 percent of total production. The state reduced its funding to private farms this year but their share of the production of all types of produce has increased.

The situation in stockraising is similar, although in many respects also distinctive. Overall production there declined by 6-11 percent compared with last year's level whereas production on private subsidiary plots was up 6 percent on last year.

Here are the figures. Sales of livestock and poultry for slaughter this year amounted to 7.4 million tonnes compared with 8.3 million tonnes last year. However, the decline is due to subsidized agricultural enterprises, where meat production fell from 5.7 million tonnes to 4.8 million tonnes. Private farmers and private subsidiary plots maintained their figures despite the worsening financial conditions.

Milk yield fell at agricultural enterprises from 27.3 million tonnes last year to 22.9 million tonnes this year. But on private subsidiary plots production rose from 13.8 million tonnes to 14.7 million tonnes and on private farms from 0.5 million tonnes to 0.6 million tonnes.

Therefore, experience shows what the state's priorities in its financial policy should be, and it identifies the profitable and promising areas where budget resources should be invested. However, the state, under the influence of the agrarian lobby, is stubbornly resisting. It continues to subsidize things which do not and will not provide a return and does not allocate the necessary resources to those areas where they could be repaid many times over. For a better understanding of the point and results of this kind of financing we should look more closely at how the funds allocated to the regions "work" or how they disappear there.

Military & Space Issues

Grachev News Conference on Corruption, Chechnya

LD2811152294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1310 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Army General Pavel Grachev, minister of defense of the Russian Federation, met with journalists today for the first time since addressing the State Duma. That was bound to be the subject of the first question, from our observer Viktor Levin:

[Begin recording] [Levin] How do you think the Duma debate of army matters went, is that the appropriate level, are you satisfied?

[Grachev] Which debate do you have in mind? If you mean on corruption in the Western Group of Forces, what came out clearly was not what those who wanted something out of the ordinary to happen [word indistinct] to come out. There was nothing of the sensation that people were expecting there. It just didn't happen.

The only thing I regret is that there was effectively a tactical withdrawal on the part of Mr. Yushenkov, in holding the hearings behind closed doors, you see. So little news seeped out to the press, although Burlakov spoke robustly in there. He backed up all his evidence with documents proving either the legitimate nature, say, of certain deals or issues, decisions, or proving that people were convicted and punished. There were no unknowns and will not be.

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[Unidentified correspondent] Pavel Sergeyevich, what is the situation in Chechnya?

[Grachev] I am not very interested in this matter, because the armed forces are not involved there. Civil strife is happening there, it is a power struggle. I do see on the television that prisoners seem to be taken there, among other things. The only thing I know is that on both sides—on Dudayev's side and on the side of the opposition—there is a large number of mercenaries fighting. That is true. There are even mercenaries from Afghanistan fighting on Dudayev's side, a lot of them. There are mercenaries from the Baltic states and other states. There are Russians fighting among them, too, on Dudayev's side. I cannot rule it out that they are also fighting on the opposition side, if they are paying well, but to say there is organized operations by the Russian army is, of course, raving. [end recording]

Grachev on Western Group of Forces

LD2811184594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1609 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said he was satisfied with the results of the parliamentary hearings on performance of the Western Group of Troops (the Russian troops earlier stationed in Germany) on November 24. He said the second stage of the hearings planned for December was not likely to take place.

Grachev said he believed that the statement made by former Commander of the Western Group of Troops Matvey Burlakov during the hearings was OK as Burlakov had proved his words by documents showing either that the decisions made were legal or that the responsible had been punished.

Grachev told journalists in Moscow today that nothing sensational had taken place during the parliamentary hearings. He said the negative moments in activities of the Western Group of Troops, "at least during 1991-1994," had been revealed and made known by the military command.

Grachev said he believed that everything would be done to make the media forget about the incident involving the Western Group of Troops and help "Mister Sergey Yushenkov" (the chairman of the State Duma Defense Committee, an initiator of the hearings) to come through unscathed. "He will not manage to do it. We will remind him of it," Grachev added.

Grachev denied information alleging delivery of arms of the Western Group of Troops to some conflicting party in Bosnia. He said this was easy to check as appropriate documents would have been filled in for such a deal.

Grachev stressed that the government was controlling arms sale. He said Russian armaments were sold only by the Rosvooruzheniye state company.

Security Tightened at Arms-Making Facilities

MM2811144594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Nov 94 First Edition p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Batygin: "Can a Closed City Sleep Easy? Territories Crammed Full of Weapons Acquire New Status"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting with leaders of Udmurtia's law enforcement organs, in which the Russian president took part, adopted a decision in principle. Several Russian cities will be given special status, which envisages a more rigorous entry and exit procedure, primarily for citizens of the near and far abroad.

Does this mean a return to the former closed cities of Soviet history? No, it is primarily a question of tightening up security at enterprises in cities manufacturing weapons and munitions. Weapons have now become a popular and profitable commodity and are spreading over Russia and outside, falling into the hands of criminals. Izhevsk, where Izhmash assembles the world-renowned Kalashnikov assault rifles and the mechanical plant produces rifles and pistols, is the focus of attention for the criminal structures. There are frequent cases of weapons being assembled in underground workshops using components stolen from these enterprises and then being sold to criminals.

The crime statistics for weapons thefts in Russia as a whole are also depressing. The following figure was made public during the recent Duma parliamentary hearings: This year there have been almost 1,000 cases of weapons and munitions being stolen from guarded warehouses.

Sergey Stepashin, leader of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS], noted that law enforcement organs are ready to use tough new measures to combat crime. However, he stressed, the toughness will lie in vigorous offensive operations and not in breaking the law.

The latter is a matter for separate discussion. FCS, MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], and Russian Prosecutor's Office leaders, who came to Izhevsk, were unanimous that until the State Duma and the Federation Council adopt a new Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure to replace the outdated ones it is extremely hard to curb wrongdoing.

Quite recently many people, including the parliament, gave the presidential edict on combating gangsterism and organized crime a hostile reception. But the situation remains extremely complex: The criminal world has declared a real war on society, and determined tough measures cannot be avoided here. Russia's regions with the most dangerous crime situation and arms manufacturing cities should be reliably protected and taken under special control.

The question of special status for the selfsame capital of Udmurtia has not arisen out of nothing. Late last

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October the republic's Supreme Council adopted the Law "On Administrative Penalties for Individual Categories of Offense," which speaks of the mandatory registration of visitors who are not citizens of the Russian Federation, in other words citizens of the CIS republics who do not have, moreover, a Russian entry visa. Under the new law the Udmurt authorities can fine and deport people who do not meet this regulation.

Nonetheless "local" measures are not enough to resolve the problem. It has long since been a Russia-wide problem and should be resolved on a countrywide scale.

Certain other cities in the country will obviously also receive special status. In particular, S. Stepashin mentioned Arkhangelsk Oblast and Maritime Kray.

Defense Industry Output Rate of Decline Slows

MM2811164494 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Nov 94 p 3

[Report by Vitaliy Vitebskiy, chief of the Russian Federation State Committee for Defense Sectors of Industry Main Information and Statistics Directorate, dated 16 November 1994: "Statistics: Military-Industrial Complex in October"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In terms of the main elements the defense industry's October results mirror those of industry as a whole: Compared with September the rate of decline has dropped. Whereas in September the decline was 41.8 percent, in October it was 36.2 percent (compared with the same period last year). The decline in production volume since the beginning of the year was 40.8 percent.

There are various reasons for this positive phenomenon. As far as military output is concerned this is primarily the result of a dramatic decline in production volumes in September (output which was not handed over then was handed over in October).

In terms of civilian output there has been virtually no increase, but in terms of consumer goods the decline in the volume of output was 45.9 percent (for comparison's sake: In September the decline was 50.9 percent).

It will be clear in November or December whether this positive trend has been consolidated. An increase in production has usually been recorded in the last few months of the year (up to and including 1992). In 1993 the rate of decline rose by over 5 percent a month in November and December. There are not as yet any signs of objective preconditions for a change in the situation.

This September compared with September 1993 the average number of workers encompassed by the committee as a whole dropped by 16.9 percent (including a figure of 17.2 percent in industry).

The average monthly wage per worker in September 1994 throughout the committee as a whole stood at 165,400 rubles [R].

For your information: The average monthly wage in the national economy is R253,200; in industry—R258,200, and in machine building—R186,200.

The lowest wages are to be found in the electronics industry (R111,400), the highest in shipbuilding (R247,400).

The results of privatization and the financial situation are only summed up at the end of the quarter and are not available for October.

Dynamics of Production Volumes in the State Committee for Defense Sectors of Industry (as a Percentage of 1991)

	1992	1993	1994 (First 10 Months)
Military Output	49.5	32.5	19.8
Civilian Output	99.6	85.6	50.4
Total	80.4	64.4	38.3

Dynamics of Production in the Russian Federation State Committee for Defense Sectors of Industry in 1994 (At Comparable Prices, As a Percentage of the Corresponding Period Last Year)

	Production
January	65.7
February	58.9
March	57.4
April	54.8
May	55.1
June	60.7
July	55.0
August	62.5
September	58.2
October	63.8

Further Scandals Among Military Top Brass Predicted

MM2811163994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Sergey Chugayev: "The 'Burlakov Affair' Collapses in Duma"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It seems that the so-called "case of corruption in the Western Group of Forces," [WGF] which resulted in the dismissal of General M. Burlakov, the forces' former commander, from the post of deputy defense minister can be consigned to the archives. During the parliamentary hearings at the State Duma 24 November, the former commander of the WGF virtually managed to convince the deputies of his noninvolvement in the violations and abuses given quite detailed coverage in the press recently.

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Emerging from the hall of sessions at the end of the hearings, M. Burlakov did not hide his satisfaction at the results and expressed gratitude to the legislators for organizing this event. You can understand what the general meant because by all accounts this was the last day of accusations against him and the first day of his rehabilitation. There is reason to believe that the majority of the main characters in the story of corruption in the WGF imagined that this was how the hearings would end because despite being invited to attend they did not turn up. P. Grachev, A. Ilyushenko, and Yu. Boldyrev were among those absent from the hall. This fact alone gives grounds for believing that the results of the hearings are not going to be sensational.

Despite the fact that the hearings in camera, the participants in the event were willing to share their information with journalists and did not understand why this atmosphere of secrecy was needed. Briefly, what happened at the hearings may be summarized as follows, according to the deputies' accounts of it: M. Burlakov gave the parliamentarians convincing evidence of his noninvolvement in the abuses which have occurred in the WGF.

M. Burlakov in particular gave explanations about the sensational story of the "two Mercedes cars" acquired for the Defense Ministry's leadership. In his words, the cars were bought with money obtained for the placing of advertising hoardings around the military camps. Documents were produced to prove that. It is said that M. Burlakov came to the hearings armed with a bulky briefcase full of documents and papers vindicating himself.

During the hearings the deputies also learned that violations connected with the Russian Federation Defense Ministry's Main Directorate for Trade similar to those which occurred in the WGF have also taken place in other groups of forces—in Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia. The mass media have paid considerably less attention to them but the same cannot be said about the prosecutor's office organs which are investigating these cases of abuse.

The closed hearings held 24 November were only the first stage in the extensive parliamentary examination of the situation which developed in the WGF in the final days of its existence. It is too soon to summarize the results. But two facts are already clear. First, the investigations organs do not have evidence of the involvement of top Russian Army officers, primarily the Defense Minister and Gen M. Burlakov, in any abuses. Nor does the State Duma have any such evidence. Second: The scandal surrounding the WGF has been exploited most effectively by the communists for their own ends. A year ago they reviled the army. Now they are acting as its most loval defenders. The man most content with the outcome of the hearings after M. Burlakov himself must surely be V. Ilyukhin, one of the leaders of the Communist Party faction.

However, it may be too soon to bring this story to a close. According to certain information General V. Seliverstov, former deputy commander of the WGF air force who is currently on trial for abuse of office, has begun giving evidence from which it emerges that the violations imputed to him were committed by him on the orders of his superiors. They include M. Burlakov himself. By all accounts in the near future we may be witnesses to many scandals in the top echelons of the Defense Ministry leadership connected with mutual accusations of corruption. As one of the deputies said on this matter: "The generals are starting to pin the blame on one another now."

Arctic Border District To Be Created 'Next Year'

MM2911102394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Gundarov: "New Border District Will Protect Russia in the North"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A new border district is being created in northern Russia, to be inaugurated next year on the basis of the Border Guard Troops' Arctic Group.

Border guards have plenty of problems to tackle associated with the fact that an extensive area of the Barents Sea, including an oil-bearing region, is a so-called "gray area"—a disputed border area—and the state border in the Arctic seas extends beyond the 12-mile territorial waters zone.

'Red Brigade' Claims To Shoot 'Entrepreneurs'

MM2911104694 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by parliamentary correspondent Nikolay Leontyev: "Shooting Bankers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The evening was drawing in. An endless stream of cars was going past.

A gray "Volga" suddenly pulled up alongside me. The door opened and I saw this attractive young woman. She looked me in the eye, smiled, and said, very insistently:

"Get in, I'll give you a ride."

Surprised by her unexpected attention, I replied almost automatically:

"Thank you, but I'm not going anywhere. I live right here."

"Get in!" she demanded. "You are Nikolay Petrovich, aren't you? We need to talk."

Bewildered and confused, I opened the door of the "Volga" and got into the front seat next to the young woman. She moved off confidently.

[Leontyev] "What do you want?"

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[FBIS Translated Text] [111030] [Correspondent over vintage footage of space station, cosmonauts, aerial photographs, followed by guided tour of "Almaz" space station]

From April 1971 onward practically all our cosmonauts have flown on "Salyut" and "Mir" orbital stations. A great deal was said and written about Salyuts 1, 6, and 7. However, nothing was disclosed about the Salyut 2, 3 and 5 [figures as heard] missions. The fact that the flight engineers were military cosmonauts excited the imagination. These mysterious "Salyuts" were "Almaz" orbital reconnaissance stations. While the Korolev Design Bureau under Mishin was busy with the Moon program, Vladimir Chelomey at the Experimental Design Bureau No. 52 was proposing building an orbital observation station for reconnaisance work from space. The project was approved in 1967 and work got under way. However, because of delays in the delivery of specialized equipment, production fell behind schedule. Four finished Almaz hulls were then handed over to Mishin. They later flew as Salyut craft. The first Almaz was launched as Salyut 2 only in 1973, and unsuccessfully at that. In 1974 and 1976 two more Almaz stations were launched. They were manned. The Almaz complex was an orbital station weighing around 19 tonnes to which crews were to be delivered by means of transport craft. Landing was envisaged by means of a special landing craft.

This is the first report from inside the Almaz. We are accompanied by mission commander Viktor Gorbatko.

[V.V. Gorbatko, USSR pilot-cosmonaut, identified by caption] The station was built mainly for purposes of reconnaissance. At the time it was envisaged that weapons would be installed on the Almaz station in the longer term. However, the Almaz that I flew only had reconnaissance equipment on board. This consisted mainly of a very big camera—the "Agat." Apart from taking photographs with this camera, we also carried out instantaneous development. The highest speed we ever reached was around 30 minutes or even just under. In just under 30 minutes we managed to take the photographs, develop them, and send them back to Earth.

[Gorbatko pointing to control panels] The whole of the station's control equipment was located here. By means of this magnifier and these levers we observed the Earth. At a given moment we'd position the station...; on this screen [points to a circular screen] we were also able to see where we were, what the terrain was like, and what our inclination [kren] was. At the right moment we would switch on the magnifier and take the photographs using the Agat camera. It was located in this area here. The development also took place right here. And here there were two onboard computer systems, one of which was always in operation. Admittedly, while we were on the station we combined them into one, since one thing would go wrong on one, and another thing on the other. You can see how much space was taken up by the equipment for photographing sections of the Earth.

And here were the chamber and the hatch with the appropriate superstructure where we would place the capsule. First we would place it here, check its content, and place the developed film in the capsule. Then using this panel [video shows keyboard] we would enter the program for the capsule's return to Earth.

[Correspondent] And what is this?

[Gorbatko] This is the re-entry craft [vozvrashchayemyy apparat] designed to deliver a three-member crew to the station.

[Correspondent] We will tell you about this in one of our subsequent programs.

Tsiklon-3 Satellite Launched From Plesetsk

LD2911112494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0530 GMT 29 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS string correspondent Viktor Gritsenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 29 TASS—A Tsiklon-3 booster rocket with a Geo-IK satellite was successfully launched from Plesetsk cosmodrome by Russian space defence forces at 05.54 Moscow time (02.54 gmt) on Tuesday.

The satellite is intended for the geodetic study of the Earth.

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Federal Assembly

Yeltsin Refers Treaty With Vietnam to State Duma

LD2811163294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1532 GMT 28 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Afonin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 28 TASS—A treaty on the basic principles of friendly relations between the Russian Federation and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, signed in Moscow on June 16, 1994, was submitted for ratification to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The accompanying letter addressed by the president to Speaker of the State Duma Ivan Rybkin says, specifically, that the treaty creates a legal basis for the development of friendship and cooperation with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and is to replace the 1978 treaty of friendship and cooperation between the USSR and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Both sides highly assessed the present treaty which regulates the entire range of relations between the two countries, is in keeping with the spirit of new times and is fully in accord with the interests of Russia and Vietnam. After a certain pause in the recent years, relations between the two countries are developing ever more rapidly.

In the area of bilateral relations the treaty is aimed at the implementation to mutual advantage of the accumulated potential in the commercial, economic, scientific, technical, humanitarian and other relations.

In the area of foreign policy, both sides pledge themselves to contribute vigorously to the maintenance of international peace and security. They express mutual striving to help enhance efficiency of the United Nations and promote the widening of cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Federation Council's Viktorov on Enlargement of NATO

LD2811215894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1941 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The loyalty with which NATO regards the will of East European countries to join the alliance could be explained only by the intention to "create a sanitary cordon around Russia," Deputy Speaker of the Federation Council Valerian Viktorov said in an interview with Interfax today. Viktorov participated in the session of the NATO Assembly last week.

The North Atlantic Assembly unites parliamentarians of the NATO member-states. Russia and several East European countries have the status of associated members in the assembly.

Viktorov said that NATO intended to build relations with Russia on the basis of bilateral treaties. "Though the authority of Russia is obviously growing and it has significantly influenced work of the NATO Assembly there are few of those seriously believing that our country could become a member of NATO in the near future," he said.

Commenting on the plans of East European countries to join NATO, Viktorov said he could not understand why they wanted to jump over a stage taking into consideration that not a single practical move had been carried out within the scope of the NATO Partnership for Peace program. Viktorov said he believed that the present objective situation was not appropriate for enlargement of NATO.

State Duma Receives POW List From Chechnya

LD2811200594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1703 GMT 28 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 28 Nov—Lists containing the names of nine people taken prisoner in Chechnya arrived in the Duma Defense Committee today. The Chechen leadership claims that they "are Russian Army servicemen," Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of the committee, tells ITAR-TASS.

The lists were transmitted to Moscow at Dzhokhar Dudayev's instruction after his telephone conversation with Sergey Yushenkov today.

The Duma Defense Committee chairman said the list contains the names of people presumably in the ranks of privates and sergeants. Checks on their military unit numbers began today. How they entered Chechnya, that is, following military orders or of their own will, is being ascertained.

Also today, Sergey Yushenkov said there was yet another telephone conversation with Groznyy. According to Chechnya, the total list of captives accused by Chechnya of belonging to the Russian Army numbers 20 people.

LDPR Faction Considers Chechen Situation

LD2811185094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1609 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The tragedy of Chechnya where the fire of war is burning is that "Russians have completely withdrawn themselves from what is happening in this republic," said a statement of the faction of Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) circulated in the State Duma and transferred to Interfax today.

The LDPR statement said that the "Russian Foreign Ministry has not national policy but only American policy." The LDPR faction said Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev was right when stating that "Russia participates in the civil war on the side of the opposition

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as the opposition was a continuation of the pro-American Russian Foreign Ministry."

Under the rule of the present "anti-national government in the Moscow Kremlin the war in Chechnya is conceived as an endless war till the death of the last Chechen," the LDPR faction in the State Duma said. The LDPR faction said it believed that an end to the war could be put only by replacing the present Russian government by a government aiming at defending the national interests of Russia.

Parliamentarian Urges Russian Mediation in Chechnya

LD2811134994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1227 GMT 28 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 28 TASS—"Only an immediate mediation mission of the Russian parliament and government can stop the bloodshed in Chechnya," Viktor Ilyukhin, chairman of the Russian parliament lower house committee on security, claimed in an interview with ITAR-TASS on Monday [28 November].

"The federal authorities should help the warring sides in the Chechen republic to sit at the negotiating table," the legislator noted.

In Ilyukhin's opinion, above all the Russian parliament upper chamber which has to take up, by right, problems emerging in regions, should initiate this action. The committee chairman noted that the lower house had adopted a decision on Chechnya in the past.

"Our position remains intact: Talks between Chechen President Dudayev and the opposition, early elections of the republican president and parliament as well as formation of legal authorities are the basis for a settlement of the fratricidal conflict," Ilyukhin said.

"The civil war is raging in Russia, and I cannot agree that the federal authorities should take a neutral position," he stressed.

Government Neglect of Army Financial Needs Hit

MM2811151594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Nov 94 p 1

[Article by Vladimir Yermolin: "The Duma Returns to the Law 'On the Status of Servicemen'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The draft law prepared by the government on making changes and additions to the Russian Federation Law "On the Status of Servicemen" will most likely be examined at plenary sessions of the Duma 7 or 9 December. The State Duma Council, which recently examined this question, concluded that the changes that have been made do not affect the existing guarantees of social protection for servicemen and, at the same time, make the law itself more effective (who knows better than we military people how ineffectual this law has proved in real life?). It is significant that the Defense Committee proposed examining the draft law on its first reading and at once holding a vote on its adoption without subsequent readings. The position of State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin is also reassuring: He not only agreed with his colleagues but also proposed discussing the draft law as soon as possible. Unfortunately, the Defense Committee has now thrown all forces into the 1995 defense budget (not that there is anything to regret here—the Army's financial health today is positively comatose). The chief thing is that the "Law on Status" has already become firmly established in the Duma's plans. The adoption of the amendments to it will not result in the disappearance of severance pay of 20 times salary, free travel on public transport, and other benefits. Let us not forget, however, that the final decisions are adopted precisely at plenary sessions. It is possible that some of the deputies or even whole factions will reckon that the list of privileges can be shortened.

I was told all this by Colonel General Leonid Mayorov, assistant to the State Duma chairman. He is well known in the Armed Forces, for he commanded the Northwestern Group of Forces and brought it back to Russia. To this day he is resolving questions of apartments for former subordinates—78 percent of the servicemen's families have received apartments, and the general is sure that the rest will get them.

It is of considerable importance that the former commander of the Northwestern Group of Forces still remains on the lists of the Armed Forces. He is on secondment to the Duma, and thus we have a right to regard him as the plenipotentiary representative of the military person's interests in the Russian parliament. Thus, the general believes that the Duma, including in the person of its chairman, keeps Army problems constantly in its field of vision. A recent example is the adoption on its first reading of the draft law on making changes and additions to the Russian Federation Law "On Military Service Obligation and Military Service." True, in order to make the law itself start working, in Mayorov's opinion, it is necessary to adopt as a "makeweight" at least 17 legal acts. For example, the law on alternative service (the work on it in the Duma is complete), the president's edict on approving the Statute on the Procedure for Performing Military Service (also [word illegible]), the government's approval of the statutes on military commissariats, on military registration, on the draft, etc. The whole sought-after package of legal acts will evidently see the light of day along with the law itself in the first quarter of 1995.

Active work on the amendments to the Russian Federation Law "On Defense" began in November. The extent to which this law does not accord today with the provisions of the new constitution is known. It will be examined at the plenary session of the Duma at the end of

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November or the beginning of December. In general, according to Mayorov's assurances, all the draft laws concerning the Armed Forces are being monitored by State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin.

Which range of problems with a bearing on the Army is the State Duma chairman having to tackle today? As is known, the state program of housing construction for servicemen and those transferred to the reserve has been wrecked. In order to rescue it, it is necessary to build at least 135,000 apartments in 1995. The president instructed the government to resolve this question. Viktor Chernomyrdin issued a directive to fund the construction program for servicemen as a separate line in the federal budget. The draft budget arrived—no line. Ivan Rybkin has written a letter to Viktor Chernomyrdin, and the appropriate Duma committees have been entrusted with preparing an amendment to the draft budget. There is another problem, also to do with apartments. Some 25,000 Russian citizens who, in the past, worked for our cosmonautics at Baykonur are today in limbo, as it were: There is no work, and nowhere to go. The Russian Federation Government adopted a decision to construct 12,500 apartments for the people of Baykonur on Russian territory. Again this construction was to be funded as a separate line in the budget. The draft budget arrived—no line.... In general, once again it is again necessary to get to the bottom of this and to ascertain why, in the government, figuratively speaking, the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing.

Deputies Comment on Election-Related Laws

MM2811121594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Nov 94 Weekend Edition p 2

[Article by Yevgeniy Skukin under the rubric "Power and the Law. How to Elect Yourself": "By Adopting the Law on Elections, the Deputies Decided What Is More Important: Who Wins or Who Counts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last Wednesday [23 November] deputies in the lower chamber passed the following federal laws, presented by the president, in their first reading: "On Elections of Federal Assembly State Duma Deputies" (with amendments made by the Committee for Legislation and Court-Legal Reform) and "On Implementing Amendments and Addenda to the RSFSR Penal Code and the RSFSR Code on Administrative Violations."

However, the third law in the president's "electoral package"—the draft law "On the Russian Federation Referendum"—was not successful for the time being. It required a qualified majority of votes, but did not obtain it.

That is the material result of Wednesday's struggle of opinions, so to speak. And the confrontation between two alternative legislative documents—the presidential one and the "Yabloko" bloc's one—was the mainspring of the dramatic action. "Yabloko" had prepared the Electoral Code.

"The code," bloc leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy believes "is a full package of legislative acts enabling the president and the Federal Assembly to be elected and a referendum to be held."

In his opinion, the most important thing for the democratic forces is confidence that the elections will be honest and democratic, and that the Stalinist formula—that it is not important who wins but who counts—will be ruled out.

Certain amendments made by "Yabloko," which are not particularly significant, according to Viktor Sheynis, are used in the presidential drafts. Notably, the powers of the Central Electoral Commission—as a kind of mini-ministry on elections—are preserved in the alternative documents, as is the possibility of influencing electoral commissions from two sides at once—administration and the purse.

The viewpoint of Vladimir Isakov, chairman of the Committee for Judicial-Legal Reform, serves as a kind of resume.

"You can only codify legislation if it exists," he believes. "But, you see, we have no laws on the elections of the president and the Federal Assembly, and the law on holding a referendum is completely out of date. That is why we need to take the presidential version with the amendments made by the committee as a foundation."

B. Isakov advises that the political reality should also be taken into account. Since the Duma can be dissolved, while the Federation Council is in danger of no such thing, we should start specifically with the Law on Elections to the State Duma.

...Before the repeat vote on the draft law on the referendum, Anatoliy Lukyanov made an unexpected, to my mind, speech in the hall. "No one suspects me of sympathizing with the president. But we should vote for his draft laws with the amendments made by the Committee for Judicial-Legal Reform. This is the version of the electoral system which is most suitable for the transitional period."

Lukyanov's campaigning did not save the law on the referendum.

According to Nikolay Ryabov, the Russian Federation president's official representative, the conciliation commission is revising the law on the elections of the president.

Regional Affairs

Leaders Urge Yeltsin To End Chechen 'Civil War'

LD2811215094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1941 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Several heads of the North Caucasian republics and the administrations of the southern regions of Russia addressed Russian President

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Boris Yeltsin with an appeal concerning the sharp aggravation of the situation in Chechnya, well-informed sources told Interfax today.

The appeal says that the situation in Chechnya is deteriorating every day and every hour. "A civil war is underway on Russian territory, blood of civilians is being shed. We address you, the Russian President, the guarantor of the Russian Constitution and human rights, with a demand that the bloody conflict in Chechnya be halted immediately and all measures be taken to ensure the constitutional order and protect the rights and legal interests of people, including their main right to life and security."

According to the same sources, the appeal was signed by President of Adygeiya Aslan Jarimov, President of Kabardino-Balkaria Valeriy Kokov, Head of the Stavropol Region's Administration Yevgeniy Kuznetsov, Premier of Karachayevo-Cherkessiya Vladimir Khubiyev, President of North Ossetia Akhsarbek Galazov, Head of the Rostov Region's Administration Vladimir Chub and Head of the Krasnodar Region's Administration Yevgeniy Kharitonov.

Chechen Opposition Admits 'Temporary Setback'

LD2811171294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1638 GMT 28 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 28 TASS—The Chechen opposition admitted it had suffered a "temporary setback" in recent fighting for the capital of Groznyy, but said its forces are getting ready for a new offensive.

The opposition "qualifies the latest operation to sieze power in Groznyy as a temporary setback and is getting ready for a new offensive in the near future", spokesman of the provisional council Ruslan Martagov told TASS on Monday [28 November].

He added that the forces of the council control the settlement of Staraya Sunzha in the outskirts of Groznyy and said no combat activities took place today.

According to Martagov, government troops executed on Sunday 50 opposition fighters taken prisoner during the weekend clashes.

On Monday government troops stopped two ambulances of the opposition which collected the dead bodies. Nurses were released, while doctors were taken in unknown direction, Martagov said.

Dudayev on Possible State of Emergency in Chechnya

LD2811172094 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1600 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] In connection with the increase in tension in Chechnya, the Federation Council could hold an emergency session on Wednesday [30 November]. According to Deputy Speaker Valerian Viktorov, the issue is being decided at this very moment at a meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Federation Council.

Let me remind you that if the president signs an edict introducing a state of emergency in Chechnya, then, in accordance with the Constitution, the Federation Council will have to convene within 72 hours.

Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev learned about the meeting in the Kremlin from Ekho Moskvy correspondents. Here is what he had to say to that:

[Begin Dudayev recording] What is all that about the state of emergency that Russia is going to introduce here? What right has it got? You have usurped us and now you are terrorizing us. You are going to bring us to a state when the people, who are already fretting, may start to act—and in that case, I believe, there will be a U-turn, because there just will not be anyone to declare a state of emergency.

Chechnya has never been and will never be part of Russia. The Chechens will never tolerate being humiliated like other peoples are still being humiliated even now. [end recording]

[Announcer] Valerian Viktorov, meanwhile, does not believe that a state of emergency necessarily means that troops will immediately be sent to the republic. In the deputy speaker's view, the border cordon may be stepped up instead, in order to prevent outside forces from intervening in the conflict.

Sergey Yushenkov, head of the Duma Defense Committee, also rejects the idea of introducing a state of emergency.

[Begin Yushenkov recording] The introduction of a state of emergency can hardly be a way out of the situation. I am in favor of all issues being solved peacefully, through negotiations. In my own view—though I have to stress that I am not very familiar with the situation—we have not yet exhausted all the opportunities for talks with various political forces in Chechnya, including Dzhokhar Dudayev himself. [end recording]

[Announcer] A more important issue, according to Yushenkov, is the future of the Russian servicemen captured by Dudayev's troops. Some of them were shown in yesterday's TV program Itogi. Three—Yevgeniy Zhukov, Andrey Rusakov, and Andrey Kryukov—were recognized by relatives. Official Groznyy claims that in all over 70 Russians have been captured. Today they were to be led in a column through Groznyy, and tomorrow they were to be executed by shooting. In this connection, Sergey Yushenkov urgently contacted Dudayev today and told us about the results of their talks.

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[Begin Yushenkov recording] I understand that they will not be shot—at least not until all the circumstances are studied by myself and my colleagues. [end recording]

[Announcer] Also today, Sergey Yushenkov asked Dudayev to make a list of all the captured Russians and send it to Moscow.

Chechen President Interviewed

LD2811202494 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1730 GMT 28 Nov 94

[Interview with Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev by unidentified correspondent—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] This is the Ekho Moskvy radio station live on-air. The time in Moscow is 2031 and we have Chechen Republic President Dzhokhar Dudayev. Good evening, Mr. President.

[Dudayev] Good evening.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, virtually all of Moscow is now listening to you. We have had a lot of calls today, and our first concern of course is how steady the situation is in the capital of the Chechen Republic and, of course, to be straight about this, the young men who were shown on television yesterday, if I may ask you about that.

[Dudayev] Life in Groznyy, the capital of the Chechen Republic, Ichkeriya, is calm and relatively normal. It is entirely and most definitely under the government's full control. Repair work is underway on the destruction caused by the latest intervention and aggression by Russian forces.

Over 150 pieces of armor supported by land and airborne assault troops delivered a shattering blow against the capital and inflicted irreparable damage to the fabric and morale of the city. Those who suffered most were civilians of all nationalities. Buildings, electricity supply, gas and water mains, and other parts of the city's infrastructure have been destroyed.

We stopped 67 tanks, of which 28 were destroyed and the rest captured. All the crews were from Russia and mainly of Russian nationality. There were a few of other nationality.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, your country, your republic, which for a long time was in the USSR and the Russian Federation, is a multinational country where there are mixed marriages and where Russians and Chechens live together. You used to live in Estonia, when you were commanding officer of a garrison. But you say it was Russian servicemen.

[Dudayev] Yes, Russian servicemen. Russia is the successor to the USSR, and it has unilaterally arrogated to itself the right to lead, command, and use the Armed Forces of the USSR.

Russia's leadership and senior politicians should bear responsibility for the fate (?of these Armed Forces), which they have ruined and destroyed and turned into common bands of hoodlums. To the great regret and shame of the Russian Government and people, this includes the elite units of the air force. That is not to mention the land forces.

[Correspondent] Dzhokhar Musayevich, I wanted to ask you, on 19 August 1991, you were one of the...[brief break in reception]... republics that supported the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and President Yeltsin in the fight against the SCSE [State Committee for the State of Emergency]. What has happened, in your view? You used to back Yeltsin and were on good terms with him. What happened?

[Dudayev] Nothing has happened to me. It is too late for me to change my ways. I am a professional soldier and an officer. And my honor is intact.

The Russian leadership quickly changed its honor, morals, conscience and dignity, and turned into a common gang of criminals, not leaders. This is to the detriment of not only Chechnya, but the entire Soviet people, if I can put it that way. New seats of civil war are incited every day: Central Asia, the Caucasus, the Baltic, Moldova. Everything around us is going up in flames. All that lives is put to the flame and the sword. Civilians are being killed, industry is being thrown back decades into the past. Everything that the Soviet people built is being pulled down. And this is called the new democratic politics, the new political leadership of Russia.

I call it straightforward world-class thuggery.

[Correspondent] Dzhokhar Musayevich, but where is the way out? Whatever happens, there will have to be some kind of talks. I know that you and Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of the Duma's Defense Committee, exchanged telephone calls today, and that he has received the names of nine POWs from you. I have just been on the telephone to him and he is investigating further. But there will have to be some kind of talks. Who are you willing to negotiate with in the Russian leadership?

[Dudayev] I have always been willing to hold talks with the legitimate Russian authorities. I have never refused. But I have been fobbed off with pettifogging pedants of no import or role in the Russian leadership, with spongers and criminals who are out for their own political aims. I do not intend to stoop to their level.

[Correspondent] What level do you want, Dzhokhar Musayevich?

[Dudayev] The level of the legitimate authorities in Russia. There is, after all, a supreme authority in Russia?

[Correspondent] There is the prime minister, the president, the chairman of the council of ministers [as heard], the chairman of parliament. Who do you think you could talk with in order to unravel this problem? Who would you choose to talk to?

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[Dudayev] I cannot choose who to talk to. I am willing to hold talks at the appropriate level with any branch of power in Russia. I have never refused to do this.

[Correspondent] Even after what has happened over the past few days?

[Dudayev] No. That changes nothing. (?Lots of things) have happened. I have seen enough over the past four years of what the Russian leadership can do. As soon as radical talks were scheduled we would immediately be subjected to provocation—as soon as radical talks or a solution to any issue looked likely. There were talks between Chernomyrdin and Deputy Prime Minister Mugodayev. We suggested...[brief break in reception]...(?agreement). Chernomyrdin said that he would not alter even a comma in the agreement, that it suited Russia and upheld its good name and neither denigrated nor sang the praises of Chechnya, and now it would go to the president, who was willing to sign it that very day.

As soon as this option for solving the problem was ready, in came the criminals—Doku Zavgayev [ex-chairman of Chechen-Ingushetia Supreme Soviet], Salambek Khadzhiyev [leader of bloc of democratic forces], Yaragi Mamodayev, and other flunkies of Chechen extraction. Khasbulatov also turned up and they launched a fresh venture, this time together with the presidential administration concealing its connivance from the other branches of power. And this is what they prepared for us.

[Correspondent] This is Ekho Moskvy live on the air with Dzhokhar Dudayev, the president of the Chechen Republic. One more question: What will now happen to the prisoners, Dzhokhar Musayevich?

[Dudayev] As the Russian authorities requested, I have detailed specific names, units, ranks, and commanding officers. There are senior and junior officers, privates, and NCOs of all ranks. We have asked the Russian procurator general, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and State Duma—are these your sons? Do you acknowledge they are your citizens and your servicemen? The prisoners' fate will depend on the answers. If they are acknowledged, they will be treated according to all the rules and standards for POWs. If they are rejected, then throughout the whole world there is only one thing to do with thugs and mercenaries.

[Correspondent] Dzhokhar Musayevich, not long before the events of last Friday and Saturday, the Presidential Council, I think, of your republic, appealed to the UN and asked it to immediately intervene. What did the council mean by immediately intervene?

[Dudayev] Send observers to objectively assess the situation and events as they develop. Assess them from the viewpoint of the law...[brief reception break]...stop us, put us right and say you, esteemed or otherwise people of Chechnya, you, in accordance with the norms and standards of international law are in the wrong and you should correct yourselves by doing this or that. If Russia is in the wrong, then Russia should correct itself. And if Russia cannot do that, then...[brief break in reception]

[Correspondent] Dzhokhar Musayevich, was there any response or reaction?

[Dudayev] There was. This question is being raised in dozens of countries.

[Correspondent] One more question. Recently, various crimes committed in Moscow have been attributed by official and semi-official sources to the Chechens. It is said that the order has gone out to deliberately destabilize the situation in Moscow. I would like you, on air before the people of Moscow, to comment on that.

[Dudayev] I have said on dozens and dozens of occasions and say it once more: I solemnly state that I and the government that I head will never be allowed to stoop to the level of terrorists. And nothing happening in Moscow or Russia has any connection, especially in terms of terrorism, sabotage, or provocation, has nothing at all to do with us, now or in the future. The people of Kussia can be sure of that.

[Correspondent] What you have said is very important. This is Ekho Moskvy live on air with Dzhokhar Dudayev, the president of the Chechen Republic. Dzhokhar Musayevich, in Chechnya at the moment there are the authorities—you, the popularly-elected president—and there is also an opposition that has withdrawn from Groznyy. Is this civil war? How do you describe it?

[Dudayev] It is not an opposition. No country in the world has an opposition with strike aircraft, armadas of tanks, and mercenaries. And it was not a withdrawal. It was straightforward intervention headed by the former political leadership of Russia. It was straightforward armed aggression against the people and citizens of Chechnya, against the Chechen Republic and its statehood.

[Correspondent] Dzhokhar Musayevich, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told journalists today that he absolutely denied any involvement by Russian forces, and said that if the Russian Army were to get involved then one paratrooper regiment would be enough—I do not quite remember exactly what unit he said—to resolve the issue. But Russia is not involved, he said. What do you as a career soldier say to that?

[Dudayev] As a professional soldier, Pavel Grachev, Russia's defense minister, should have known that on Chechnya's territory there was not one but many regiments, which were escorted away from here calmly and without a single casualty. He should have known that in 1991 a paratrooper regiment was sent here, fed well, and once again sent away from here. He should have known that in 1992 an armored armada invaded here and occupied one of our districts. Without a single shot being fired and without a single casualty, they were sent back. Grachev should have known that he will not resolve

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anything here in Chechnya with a paratrooper regiment, and nobody would even think of taking him seriously.

Grachev went to the Duma to deliver a report to the country's highest legislative body and ended up instead delivering a dressing-down, and what he is now saying to the Russian people is simply bluster.

I regret that the Armed forces of the former USSR are led by a general with such lack of scruples and responsibility.

[Correspondent] This is Ekho Moskvy and the time in Moscow is 2044 hours. We are with Dzhokhar Dudayev, the president of the Chechen Republic. Dzhokhar Musayevich, our program is coming to an end. You now have the opportunity to speak directly to the people of Moscow and all who are listening to us. Go ahead.

[Dudayev] I will use this opportunity to appeal to Muscovites and all those listening. Dear citizens of Moscow. I say to you with full responsibility that everything that has been thought up and pinned on the Chechens and the government of Chechnya—terrorism and sabotage—is all a fabricated deception and we will never stoop to such a level. That is the first thing. Second, I appeal to the people of Moscow, to the mothers whose sons have only just been brought back from Afghanistan as corpses in their hundreds and thousands, and to the orphans who have been left fatherless, stand up and speak. What are we to do with the approximately 200 people who are still alive here? Unless you admit to knowing them, the same fate awaits them that awaited all the rest. Unless the people of Moscow and democratic forces shift their top political leadership on to legal tracks, a Russian tragedy is inevitable. Thank you. All the best. Goodnight.

[Correspondent] Thank you. This is Ekho Moskvy live on air and that was Dzhokhar Dudayev, the president of the Chechen Republic. The time is 2045.

Rybkin: Yeltsin Will Take Adequate Steps in Chechnya

LD2811210794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1941 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin said that the Chechen Republic had been and would remain part of the Russian Federation and so speaking of Russia's interference in the Chechen conflict would be fallacious.

He explained that a military intervention in Chechnya was in the competence of the Russian president as the guarantor of the Constitution who would take adequate steps, when necessary.

Rybkin believed that the parties in the conflict had to come to an agreement peacefully while the peace process in Chechnya had to culminate in democratic general elections. He said that the Chechen Council of Elders could be helpful in restoring peace there.

In an Open Radio interview Rybkin said Monday [28 November] that, as proposed by Duma member Mikhail Burlakov, the Chechen situation will be discussed at the very first plenary session in December.

Rybkin did not rule out the possibility of sending a parliamentary delegation to Chechnya for talks with the local factions.

Viktorov on Chechen State of Emergency

LD2911121594 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 29 Nov 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent T. Orlova] The possibility of the Russian president issuing an edict on the introduction of a state of emergency in Chechnya in the next few days is becoming more and more likely. But only the Federation Council can allow the president to implement emergency measures with regard to any of the Federation's subjects. Valeriyan Viktorov, the first deputy speaker of the Federation Council said today that in the present circumstances it was criminal not to intervene in Chechnya's affairs. [passage omitted]

[Begin Viktorov recording] The introduction of a state of emergency does not necessarily mean that Russian troops will be brought to Chechnya. It does not mean that there will be an escalation of some kind of military tension there because the state of emergency envisages, first and foremost, certain measures with regard to controlling the situation in border regions and ensuring the safety of, let us say people coming to Chechnya or leaving it. [end recording]

Ingush Official: Russian Troops Not Involved in Chechnya

LD2811183294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1729 GMT 28 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 28 Nov—The interior troops of the Russian Interior Ministry maintaining the state of emergency on part of the North Ossetia and Ingush territories are not taking part in the Chechen events, a spokesman for their command in the town of Mozdok (North Ossetia) who wished to remain anonymous told ITAR-TASS today.

He denied the reports by Groznyy officials that in Mozdok echelons carrying tanks were allegedly being unloaded, and that the special detachment "Vityaz" was being sent to be used in Chechnya.

At the Public Relations Center of the Russian Interior Ministry ITAR-TASS was told that the special detachment "Vityaz" had been fulfilling the task of maintaining the state of emergency on the territories of North Ossetia and Ingushetia for a long time. The ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned that, under the law on the

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Ministry of Interior interior Troops, the information on their specific tasks, movements, and bases are not subject to circulation in the media.

Last night, Anatoliy Shkirko, deputy commander in chief of the Russian interior troops, told ITAR-TASS that not a single serviceman, not a single armored vehicle of the interior troops had entered Chechnya.

Official Says Talks May Begin With Chechnya on POWs

LD2811221594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2158 GMT 28 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 29 TASS—Russia may begin talks with official Chechen authorities to exchange the Russians captured by Chechen government troops for Chechen president Dzhokhar Dudayev's supporters held by the opposition, a high-ranking official in the Kremlin told ITAR-TASS on Monday.

The announcement followed a closed-door session of the Russian Government earlier today to discuss the fate of Russian prisoners of war in the break-away Chechen Republic.

The Russian president's administration officials denied that the prisoners of war are Russian Army servicemen and called them "mercenaries."

Official Chechen authorities said that there are at least "20 Russian Army servicemen" among the captured soldiers, adding that they would hand over the list to the Russian side.

The Russian Security Council and the Defence Ministry refused to comment on these reports. However, the Defence Ministry said that "the information will be checked very thoroughly. The results will be made public."

Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev said that the Russian soldiers captured by Chechen government troops last Saturday are unlikely to be executed.

Speaking at a news conference in Groznyy on Monday, Dudayev said that they will be tried by law, adding that "the Chechen people know what a humane treatment of prisoners of war is."

At the same time, he stressed that the captured Chechens will be "tried by the laws of Shariat (Islamic law)."

Dudayev noted that he has no intention to "surrender his positions" and that "600 supporters have already arrived in the republic from Daghestan, and the Kabardino-Balkar and Karachay-Cherkess republics."

Yeltsin Threatens State of Emergency in Chechnya

LD2911033194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0300 GMT 29 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 29 Nov—Russian President Boris Yeltsin appealed today to all the participants in the armed confrontation in the Chechen republic with a warning and a demand that, from the moment of the appeal, they have 48 hours to declare a cease-fire, lay down their arms, disband all the armed formations, and release all the citizens who have been captured and are being detained by force.

If this demand is not met by the set deadline, it says in the presidential appeal handed to ITAR-TASS today, "a state of emergency will be introduced on the territory of the Chechen republic, and all the forces and means at the disposal of the state will be used to put a stop to the bloodshed, to protect the life, rights, and freedoms of Russian citizens, and to restore constitutional legality, law and order, and peace in the Chechen republic."

In the appeal, Yeltsin stresses that "the hope of an independent solution to the internal Chechen conflict has been completely exhausted. The situation is acquiring the nature of one that is extremely dangerous for stability and peace in our society and for the vitally important interests and national security of Russia."

Yeltsin, Council Discuss State of Emergency in Chechnya

MK2911114094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 29 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Sergey Parkhomenko under the "Crisis" rubric: "Federal Authorities Do Not Rule Out Imposition of State of Emergency in Chechnya. Duma Defense Committee Negotiates Captured Russian Servicemen's Future With Dudayev"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A group of Russian Federation Security Council permanent members gathered in the Kremlin yesterday evening for an emergency meeting chaired by President Boris Yeltsin devoted to the development of the crisis in the Chechen Republic. Taking part in the discussion were Pavel Grachev, Viktor Yerin, Sergey Stepashin, and Yevgeniy Primakov, heads of federal "power bloc" departments; Oleg Lobov, Russian Federation Security Council secretary; Vladimir Shumeyko, Federation Council chairman; and Yuriy Baturin, the president's national security aide. Government head Viktor Chernomyrdin and Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray (who is still in charge of national-state problems although the "Chechen question" was withdrawn from his competence recently) were absent from the conference, which perhaps deprived it of the official status of a Security Council full session.

Information on the contents of the discussion and decisions made as a result is very scarce. The backdrop against which yesterday's conference was held, however, compels some conclusions.

Let us note first of all that reliable sources in the Kremlin say that the presidential staff has allegedly drafted Boris Yeltsin's edict imposing a state of emergency on the

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entire territory of Chechnya. The Russian Federation Constitution grants the head of state the right to decide independently on the imposition of such a regime in a separate component of the Russian Federation "with an immediate notification about this to the Federation Council and the State Duma." Importantly, this decision shall enter into force immediately and shall remain in force (as the "pre-constitutional" but still not unrepealed State of Emergency Law specifies) for three days. The extension of the emergency situation regime calls for an approval of the edict by the upper chamber of parliament, but within 72 hours Russian tanks, if one is to believe Pavel Grachev's well- known claim, can equally reach either the English Channel or the Caspian Sea.

In the meantime, high officials in the Federation Council asserted yesterday that the chamber will quite probably convene for its sitting as early as 30 November, not 6 December as scheduled, and take up a discussion of developments in Chechnya. Security Council Deputy Chairman Valerian Viktorov described in detail, in an ITAR-TASS interview, the procedure the senate would have to resort to should the president sign the state of emergency edict after all, while he did not rule out this eventuality on the whole.

Neither did the State Duma stand aloof from the crisis in the Chechen Republic. Duma Defense Committee head Sergey Yushenkov, in particular, succeeded in getting the leader of the Chechen Republic to talk with him on the phone yesterday evening. According to him, General Dudayev promised to provide, in the shortest time possible, the complete list of Russian servicemen taken prisoner by troops loyal to him. "From the general tenor of the conversation," Mr. Yushenkov told your SEGODNYA correspondent, "it became clear to me that nothing threatens the prisoners' lives at least until our committee makes sure how and under whose orders these people appeared in Chechnya."

'Text' of Yeltsin Appeal on Chechnya

LD2911042694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0310 GMT 29 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 29 Nov—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has appealed today to the participants in the armed conflict in the Chechen republic. Below follows the text of the appeal that was conveyed to ITAR-TASS:

Appeal of the President of the Russian Federation to the Participants in the Armed Conflict in the Chechen Republic.

Blood is being shed in the ancient land of the Caucasus, which is an inseparable part of our fatherland.

Despite all of the efforts of the federal bodies of state power, of the elders who hold authority in the Northern Caucasus, and of the leaders of the peoples living there, the calls of the Russian and world public have not succeeded in stopping the internal conflict in Chechnya. The scale of the conflict is broadening; the fierceness of the armed clashes is increasing. The confronting sides are attracting mercenaries to take part in the armed actions, including mercenaries from foreign states.

Through the fault of irresponsible politicians, due to their self-seeking interests and insatiable ambitions, absolutely innocent people are perishing. The number of orphans is multiplying. The constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens are being trampled. Thousands of hapless people are being turned into refugees, are being deprived of a roof over their heads, and are being forced to leave the graves of their ancestors. Grief, suffering, fear in the face of excessive crimes, and unbridled banditry are poisoning the life of the Chechen people and their neighbors.

The hope of an independent solution to the internal Chechen conflict has been completely exhausted. The situation is acquiring a nature that is extremely dangerous for stability and peace in our society and for the vitally important interests and national security of Russia.

The entire responsibility for Chechnya's fate, for the life and health of all its citizens, lies with me, the president of Russia. Expressing the will of our multinational people, and in accordance with the powers vested in me by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, by Article 7 of the law "On the State of Emergency." I appeal to all the participants in the armed confrontation in the Chechen Republic with a warning and a demand that, from the moment of my appeal, they have 48 hours to declare a cease-fire, lay down their arms, disband all armed formations, and release all the citizens who have been captured and are being detained by force.

If this demand is not met by the set deadline, a state of emergency will be introduced on the territory of the Chechen republic, and all the forces and means at the disposal of the state will be used to put a stop to the bloodshed, to protect the life, rights, and freedoms of Russian citizens, and to restore constitutional legality, law and order, and peace in the Chechen republic.

[signed] B. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation

Mothers of Soldiers Captured in Chechnya Appeal to Rybkin

LD2911090994 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0730 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Eighteen mothers of Russian servicemen captured during the opposition onslaught on Groznyy have sent a telegram to Ivan Rybkin, Gennadiy Zyuganov, and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. It says that among the prisoners shown on television they saw their sons and those serving with them. They are not volunteers, the mothers say. The government and the president refuse to acknowledge the fact that Russian troops

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are involved in the war with Chechnya, and will probably refuse to acknowledge the POW's. We beg you to save our sons, the telegram says.

Chechen Government Emergency Sitting Views Yeltsin Appeal

LD2911101794 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Government of Chechnya is holding an emergency sitting at which recommendations to Dzhokhar Dudayev and common views on the issue of further actions in connection with Boris Yeltsin's address are to be worked out. According to Interfax sources in the Chechen capital, some members of the republic's government believe that a compromise should be reached with Moscow and the possibility of signing the Federation Treaty should be examined. Others are intent on continuing the war.

Chernomyrdin, Rybkin Discuss Chechnya

LD2911121194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1118 GMT 29 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 29 Nov (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Government Chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin had a meeting today with State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin, Viktor Cheremukhin, head of the State Duma press service, told the ITAR-TASS correspondent today. He said that it was a one-to-one meeting which lasted more than an hour. A very broad range of issues relating to the socioeconomic situation in the country was discussed. Matters relating to recent events in Chechnya were also discussed.

Kozyrev: 'Necessary Decision' on Chechnya Today

LD2911131594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1230 GMT 29 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 29 Nov—Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Kozyrev has described the "Chechen problem" as Russia's internal affair. At a news conference at the end of talks with his Canadian colleague Andre Ouellet in Moscow today, he said: "Chechnya is Russia's internal affair and we do not discuss it with our international partners." The minister expressed the opinion that "the necessary decision" will be made at today's meeting of the Security Council of the Russian Federation on settling the situation in Chechnya.

Military To Supervise Surrender of Chechen Weapons

LD2911131394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Troops of the North Caucasus Military District are ready to supervise the surrender and storage of weapons and military hardware by the antagonists in Chechnya if they voluntarily lay down their arms, Lieutenant-General (Vladimir Potapov), the district's chief of staff, told INTERFAX on the phone from Rostov-on-Don. He said that so far there have been no instructions from the Ministry of Defense in connection with the appeal by President Yeltsin to the sides in the Chechen conflict.

Dudayev Rally Considers Yeltsin Appeal 'Declaration of War'

LD2911110794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1053 GMT 29 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy November 29 TASS—Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev is currently holding a meeting with the government of his rebel republic apparently in order to consider an official response to the ultimatum issued by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

TASS learned from informed sources that Dudayev has just arrived to his palace to hold a meeting with republican leaders.

In the meantime, several thousands of Dudayev's supporters are rallying in front of the palace. They qualify Yeltsin's ultimatum as "a declaration of war to Chechnya."

On Tuesday morning Yeltsin issued an ultimatum to the warring Chechen sides ordering them to lay down arms in 48 hours and otherwise threatening to impose a state of emergency on Chechnya.

Noncombatants Evacuated From Groznyy; Arms Issued

LD2911113894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1122 GMT 29 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy November 29 TASS—Children, women and elderly people are being evacuated from the Chechen capital of Groznyy to nearby villages. At the same time rural residents are being armed to fight on Dudayev's side, according to reports reaching Groznyy.

No official response from the Chechen leadership to President Boris Yeltsin's ultimatum has been available yet.

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According to a source in the Chechen communications department, Moscow has announced that all communications with Chechnya will be cut off at 2.p.m. Moscow time (11.00 GMT) today.

Jets Reportedly Bomb Downtown Groznyy, Airport

LD2911125294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1244 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 29 TASS—At 15.10 Moscow time (12.10 GMT), four jet planes bombed and rocketed downtown Groznyy, where a rally of supporters of Dzhokhar Dudayev has been held since Tuesday [29 November] morning, a CHECHENPRESS news agency staff member told ITAR-TASS by telephone.

The airport was also bombed. One of the attacking planes was shot down and fell near the airport.

Dudayev's press conference was being held in the presidential palace during the air attack.

There is destruction in the city but nothing was immediately known about any loss of life.

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International Affairs

Kuchma Calls For NATO To End Serb Bombing

AU2811195994 Paris AFP in English 1940 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Nov 28 (AFP)—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said Monday [28 November] that Kiev envisaged withdrawing its troops in former Yugoslavia if NATO continued with airstrikes in the region.

Kuchma told reporters he had asked his foreign and defence ministries to "prepare an official position" if "the bombing of Serb positions" by North Atlantic Treaty Organisation aircraft continued.

"If our contingent over there is not treated with respect, we don't have to send our soldiers there," he added.

Ukraine has deployed some 1,200 troops in the former Yugoslavia, many of whom are stationed in the Bosnian capital Sarajevo.

Kuchma underlined Kiev was at one with Moscow on how the conflict should be resolved.

Russia has repeatedly expressed disquiet about NATO's recourse to airstrikes and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said Sunday he would soon be unveiling a "new initiative" aimed at solving the Bosnian conflict. He said his plan involved "a general halt to hostilities in the whole of Bosnia."

Turning to the Ukraine parliament's recent conditional ratification of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Kuchma said his country would attend the upcoming Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe meeting in Budapest "as a non-nuclear country."

The CSCE meets in the Hungarian capital on December 5 and 6 with Kiev having agreed to transfer its share of the Soviet-era nuclear arsenal to Russia following a tripartite accord last January with Moscow and Washington.

Kuchma said the "essential" aim of the CSCE conference would be the signature by nuclear states of a treaty "granting Ukraine security guarantees."

Those guarantees are an outstanding condition by the Kiev parliament for final acceptance of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Threatens To Withdraw Troops

LD2811201194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1850 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Leonid Kuchma has expressed approval of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's warning that Russia would withdraw its troops from the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in former Yugoslavia unless air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs were stopped.

At a news conference in Kiev on Monday, Kuchma said: "If our contingent there is treated with disrespect there'll be no reason for us to send our soldiers there."

He said he had ordered the Foreign Ministry to draw up proposals on what moves Ukraine should make if air strikes continued.

Kuchma, Yeltsin Discuss Friendship Treaty

LD2811172494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1609 GMT 28 Nov 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev November 28 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma had a telephone conversation with his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin on Monday and said that "understanding was reached practically on all issues" of the bilateral friendship treaty which is to be signed between the two major Slavic states of the former Soviet Union.

"Ukraine and Russia are calmly and normally working on the treaty. Neither Ukraine nor Russia are interested in whipping up mistrust and tensions between the two great Slavic states and historic neighbours", Kuchma told a press conference commenting on the conversation with Yeltsin.

Ukraine "does everything to sign a large-scale friendship and cooperation treaty with Russia as soon as possible", Kuchma stressed.

He said the Russian president confirmed that the treaty would be signed in Kiev and in the near future.

Kuchma on U.S. Cooperation, Russian Gas Supplies

LD2811192094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no dateline as received]—The state visit to the U.S. began a qualitatively new era in Ukrainian-U.S. relations, and opened the way for a reorientation of economic cooperation, said Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma on today at a briefing dedicated to the results of his trip to the United States.

Leonid Kuchma said that he was preparing to form an investment center through which all funds invested in Ukraine by other states would be channelled.

Commenting on his own announcement made at the first meeting of the Constitutional Commission today about the suspension of gas deliveries from Russia, Leonid Kuchma confirmed that as of today they had been suspended by more than 50 percent. But Kuchma said the fault was "not Russia's but the passivity of our officials." Leonid Kuchma said that two weeks ago a

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telegram was sent from Russia to the government that stated that the agreement between Russia and Ukraine on gas deliveries had expired, and that it was necessary to conclude a new one.

Kuchma said the main issue that will be discussed during the Ukrainian governmental delegation's visit to Moscow, which is headed by Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol, should be an agreement on gas deliveries to Ukraine.

Leonid Kuchma confirmed that if the Supreme Council failed to adopt the law on power it is possible that it could be put to a referendum.

Gas Deliveries End, Prices Rise

LD2811144194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1240 GMT 28 Nov 94

[By UNIAN correspondents Svitlana Korotych and Alla Yeremenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [dateline as received]—Russia suspended its gas deliveries to Ukraine on 26 November on the grounds that Ukraine had used up its annual quota for gas supplies. The Russian state company Gazprom is offering to resume gas supplies to Ukraine at $80 per 1,000 cubic meters, instead of $50 per 1,000 cubic meters as before. Gas industry experts believe that the price of Russian gas for Ukraine should not exceed $60 per 1,000 cubic meters. The terms of gas payment will be set out in a new agreement on fuel deliveries for the rest of 1994 and 1995 to be negotiated in Moscow by a Ukrainian delegation led by Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol.

Turkmenistan has not yet resumed its gas deliveries, suspended on 10 November, due to a pipeline accident on the Russian border, according to the Turkmen side.

Ukraine has 15 billion cubic meters of gas in its own underground gas holders. UNIAN has been informed that the supply of gas to Ukrainian consumers has not been reduced. Ukraine is also using some of the Russian gas exports to Western Europe.

National Affairs

Kuchma, Moroz Differ on New Constitution

LD2811160794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1240 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [No date as received]—"Delaying the adoption of a new constitution is an unjustified political mistake for which the president, the Constitutional Commission, and the Supreme Council will all be called to account," said President Leonid Kuchma, who co-chairs the Constitutional Commission, addressing its first organizational meeting today. He noted the indifference to the constitutional problems on the part of Ukraine's previous government, as a result of which other CIS states used the intellectual blueprints to adopt their own constitutions.

Leonid Kuchma stressed that the state needs civic accord, the first step toward which must be "a mutual agreement between power structures for the transitional period—a law on power," to lay the basis for the new constitution. This law, according to the president, will rid Ukraine of its constitutional chaos.

Oleksandr Moroz, cochairman of the Constitutional Commission and Ukraine's Supreme Council chairman, while not denying the need to adopt a law on power, stressed that the law should not replace the existing clauses of Ukraine's constitution. According to Moroz, the Constitutional Commission must analyze all positive proposals forwarded by parties and academics on the basis of the draft constitution of 26 October 1993 and submit the final version of the document to the Supreme Council.

During the discussion, members of the Constitutional Commission Oleksandr Yemets, Serhiy Holovatyy, Volodymyr Hrynyov, and Oleksandr Karpov favored the idea of adopting the law on power "for the sake of restoring legal order in the state."

Serhiy Holovatyy believes that it is also necessary to sign a constitutional agreement between the three power structures for the period until the new constitution is ready, stipulating that the law will take supremacy over the current constitution.

Left-wing deputies on the Constitutional Commission expressed a different view. They believe that the current constitution should be preserved in an amended form, while contentional issues should be put to a referendum. These are issues concerning the social system, social rights, state symbols, and the power structure in Ukraine. The left-wing members expressed opposition to the law on power which the president will soon submit to the Supreme Council.

Parliament Forms Working Groups

LD2811215394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1941 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] By March 1995 the Ukrainian parliament is to get the draft of the new constitution, the secretary of the Constitutional Commission Albert Korneyev told the Kiev press Monday.

He said the private part of the session of the commission Monday approved regulations giving the commission a national status.

Korneyev said seven groups were formed to deal with the seven sections of the constitutional draft in the wording of October 1993.

The commission approved a plan of action in keeping with which its members are to study the acting constitutions of France, Italy, Russia and Belarus as well as

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versions of the Ukrainian constitution drafted by different parties and movements.

Communists Oppose Kuchma's 'Active Capitalism'

LD2811164194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1518 GMT 28 Nov 94

[By Ukrinform correspondent Aleksandr Litvinov for ITAR-TASS]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 28 Nov (TASS)—Ukrainian communists have stated that they are going over to opposition to the present leadership of the country in connection with President Kuchma's "active policy to make the country capitalist." Such a decision was adopted at a joint plenum of the Central Committee and the Central Control Commission of the Communist Party of Ukraine which ended here. The Communist Party of Ukraine came out in favor of preserving the Soviet system in Ukraine against "the extortion of privatization" and the whipping up of nationalism in the country.

Plans For Party Congress in March

LD2811134394 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0945 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [No date as received]—A plenary meeting of Ukraine's Communist Party [CPU] Central Committee 26 November decided to postpone the next party congress from January to March 1995. An 80-page proposed draft program of the CPU, to be adopted at the congress, was dismissed by a group of Communists as "too long." According to one of the delegates, several alternative drafts will be considered in the near future. These, he believes, will be more radical: "There are many who cannot accept the absence in the given draft of a clause on a strict planned economy and the excessive independence of labor collectives it proposes."

Apart from the party program, the communist congress will approve amendments to the statute, elect a new central committee and central control commission, and hear reports from the party's governing bodies.

The 26 November plenum adopted a decision to oppose the Ukrainian president's policy of "accelerated capitalization of Ukraine". The communists came out in favor of an all-Ukrainian referendum on the main points of the Ukrainian constitution: Ukraine's social and political system, private ownership of land, executive authorities including presidency, and state symbols.

The communists adopted a statement expressing solidarity with the people of Serbia and urging to "stop the aggressors before too late." The statement was proposed by Borys Oliynyk, chairman of the Supreme Council Commission for Foreign and CIS Affairs.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the victory in World War II, the communists called for a human chain to link eastern and western borders of Ukraine and the restoration of [Soviet] monuments and street names.

The plenum appointed a delegation to the Second Congress of the Peoples of the USSR.

President Signs Business Cooperation Fund Decree

LD2811220694 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A Ukrainian presidential decree on the Business Cooperation Fund—Ukrayina has been made public. In particular it states:

With the aim of promoting radical economic reform in Ukraine; creating an effective mechanism of interaction between the state and private sectors of the economy and between productive, banking, and private capital; maximizing conditions for the organizational restructuring of the economy; supporting innovation programs, and expanding progressive experiences in economic reforms and in accordance with Ukraine's Constitution, I resolve:

To support the initiative of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, Ukraine's Ministry of Justice, Ukraine's National Space Agency, the Academy of Medical Sciences, the "Prominvestbank" and "Pryvatbank" commercial banks, and the joint stock bank "Ukrsotsbank," to form a charitable fund, the Business Cooperation Fund--Ukrayina, having established a special regulation for its formation.

To establish that the fund's resources are formed at the expense of charitable donations and voluntary contributions by physical and corporate bodies and also other incomes received on grounds that are not prohibited by Ukrainian legislation.

Until the issue of taxing the charitable activities has been resolved in the relevant legislative act, the fund will be exempt from paying taxes, levies, and other obligatory payments to the budget and contributions to state targeted funds. The fund's incomes in foreign currencies are not subject to compulsory sale while taxed income, profits, and receipts from sales are reduced by the sum contributed by the business to the fund on condition that the fund uses these incomes for charitable purposes.

To appoint Ihor Pluzhnykov the head of the Business Cooperation Fund—Ukrayina and Volodymyr Horbulin, the head of the fund's supervisory council.

EU Takes Control of Two Nuclear Power Plants

LD2811123494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1154 GMT 28 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Nekrasova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lvov November 28 TASS—Two out of five operating nuclear power plants in

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Ukraine—the Rovno nuclear plant, the closest to the western border, and the Zaporozhye station, the biggest in the Republic, will be placed under the control of the European Union [EU].

An analysis of the environment will be conducted at the stations, while a system of monitoring and early radiation warning will ensure independent control in the 30-kilometer zone. The programme was worked out by the German Nerman firm and will be financed from the EU funds.

Official on Industry Problems, Accidents

WS2811135594 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 2345 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An absence of laws assigning responsibility for damage resulting from accidents at nuclear installations is reportedly impeding cooperation between the State Nuclear Energy Committee and foreign technology companies.

According to Committee Chair Mykhaylo Umanets, the acquisition of up-to-date technologies and equipment is crucial if Ukraine is to produce its own nuclear fuel, and service its own power plants.

Umanets complained that despite a high profile deal between Ukraine's Khartron defense enterprise and Westinghouse of the United States on developing computer systems for nuclear power plants, "not a single piece of equipment has actually been provided to Ukraine."

Several other cooperative projects have been frozen, including a US$66 million technical aid package from the European Commission's TACIS program, US$30 million aid from the U.S. Government, and US$20 million in German aid to enhance the safety level of the Rivne nuclear plant.

Talks with foreign partners on completing new nuclear reactors at the Rivne, Zaporizhia and Khmelnitskiy plants, as well as erecting the "Shelter-2" protective coating over the fourth reactor at Chernobyl, are progressing at a snail's pace, said Umanets.

Ukraine's purchases of spare parts and nuclear fuel in Russia and the Western countries requires US$52 and US$300 million for fuel annually, staggering sums for a country with almost no official currency reserves.

Although currently Germany and France are providing training for personnel at Ukrainian plants, "this assistance is not likely to resolve the problems of our nuclear energy industry," the nuclear boss said.

Umanets said a law specifying the sources of funds for compensation of nuclear damages has been submitted to parliament and that the Committee is hoping for passage by the end of the year.

Cossacks Intend To Remain Neutral in Crimea

LD2811211394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1850 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] If a conflict breaks out in Crimea Crimean Cossacks intend to take a neutral stance, the head of the Council of Elders of Crimean Cossacks Mitrofan Popov told Interfax-Ukraine.

The closest task of Crimean Cossacks is to speed up the adoption of laws on the rehabilitation and on the status of Cossacks.

The leader of Pamyat organization (Russia) Dmitry Vasilyev who attended an assembly of Crimean Cossacks called the peninsula primordial Russian land in an interview. "International Zionism in the person of transnational business is artificially creating conditions for the separation of the brotherly peoples of Ukraine and Russia," he declared.

Valery Kobzar was elected the leader of Crimean Cossacks at the first assembly in Simferopol Sunday.

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Belarus

Lukashenka on Price Controls, Social Benefits

LD2811193394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1627 GMT 28 Nov 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Alyaksandr Lukashenka made public a statement Saturday explaining his recent decree on restoring the prices of early November. According to the statement, the price liberalization had not been balanced with social protection steps and so the prices outpaced the incomes dramatically.

Lukashenka said in the statement that his decision imposing a measure of price control for certain foodstuffs and introducing social support of most affected strata of population did not imply a strategic retreat from the principle of free pricing or the market reform. According to the president, he ordered the government to pay social benefits to the poorest population strata so as to be able to resume a consistent policy of price liberalization as early as next December.

He recalled success scored by his program of urgent anti-crisis steps such as liberalization of foreign trade, lifting most government subsidies of goods and services, restoration of budget controllability, reduction of debts to western donors and energy saving.

IF [Interfax] Note: The budget revenue in the first twenty days of November increased by 179 percent on the same period in 1993 while the spending increased only by 102 percent. The crediting of the budget deficit also fell dramatically. As little as 50 billion rubles were granted as credits while 170 billion had been earmarked for crediting.

Lukashenka admitted, however, that the creation of a competitive market environment, privatization and production demonopolization, foreign trade liberalization and introduction of a bankruptcy mechanism proceeded too slowly.

Chyhir Cites CIS Committee in Food Price Rise

LD2811220594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1941 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Belarussian [Belarusian] Government told the president about its initiative to raise prices for vital food products, Belarussian Premier Mikhail Chyhir said at a press conference in Minsk today.

Chyhir said the government had to discuss such a measure as a result of mass export of food by individuals from Belarus to the neighboring republics. He said this was due to the difference in prices for food in Belarus on one hand and in Russia, Ukraine and the Baltic states on the other hand.

Chyhir cited the CIS Statistical Committee saying that prices for meat and meat products were two or three times cheaper in Belarus than in other CIS republics. He said if individuals continued to export so much food this could affect supply of the people with food during the winter.

Chyhir said the state budget could not afford to subsidize food products for the population. The government already granted 35 billion of rubles for subsidies for tariffs on heating. The government also intends to assign 46 billion rubles for subsidizing transport tariffs and 21 billion rubles for making fuel cheaper for the population, Chyhir said.

Commenting on the decision of Russia to halve gas delivery to Belarus because of the debt of Minsk for gas, Chyhir said the bilateral talks on the governmental level in Moscow were a success. He said as a result of the talks gas delivery to Belarus would be increased to 90 percent of the contractual terms if Belarus paid 100 percent of gas' price in advance and worked out a precise schedule for the debt's payment.

U.S., Minsk Work Out Agricultural Deal

WS2911110094 Minsk RESPUBLIKA in Russian 26 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by the press service of the Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus has issued a directive on signing an agreement between the Belarusian Ministry of Agriculture and Foodstuffs and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The agreement envisions granting Belarus a $10-million credit for the purchase of ground soy beans ($7 million) and fodder corn ($3 million), including the cost of transport.

The directive authorizes S.N. Martynow, extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of the Republic of Belarus to the United States, to sign the agreement on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Foodstuffs of the Republic of Belarus.

Duma Ratifies Minsk, Moscow Troop Treaty

WS2811135694 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian State Duma has ratified the treaty concluded by the Russian and Belarusian Governments on the status of Russian military formations temporarily stationed on Belarusian territory, as well as the agreement on the status of Russian military formations and the composition of the strategic forces temporarily stationed in Belarus. The treaty was

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drafted in 1992-93 considering the political, economic, and military situation, as well as the main trends in the development of Belarus.

Defense Minister Ceases Many Research Projects

MM2911094694 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Nov 94 p 3

[Report by Valeriy Kovalev: "Belorussia Unable To Develop Its Own Weapons"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minsk—Colonel General Kostenko, Belorussia's [Belarus] new defense minister, has revised the program for defense research and experimental design work adopted previously. Owing to the military department's acute lack of funds, the overwhelming majority of the projects have been axed on his orders.

The minister said that Belorussia does not have the production base to manufacture arms and combat hardware and the republic is simply unable to develop it in the current conditions. Admittedly, he added, the Defense Ministry is currently formulating a plan to provide the Belorussian Army with technical support through the year 2005. However, this program is geared mainly to arms procurements, mainly from Russia, and not to developing its own military production.

Moldova

Andronic Returns From UN, Discusses Options

AU2811175094 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 25/11/1994—At the session of the UN General Assembly, Moldova spoke for bringing international peacekeeping forces to Dniester, Nicolae Andronic, Moldovan parliamentary delegation leader at the session, said to journalists today, upon his return from Washington.

In his speech at the UN forum, Andronic motivated this stance by the danger of a possible aggravation of the situation in Dniester.

"After Russia has unilaterally decided to reduce its peacekeeping contingent in the region, such a danger does exist. We are not blaming the Russian Federation, who fulfilled its commitments honestly at the first stage of the conflict settlement. But now the situation is changing, and not for the better. It is possible that, by having decided to reduce its contingent here, Russia wants to repeat the known situation in Georgia, when things worsened there, and the local authorities appealed to the Russian Army for help," Andronic said.

He expressed an apprehension that if Russia succeeds in attracting its 14th Army as a peacekeeping force, then the agreement on its withdrawal from the region will remain unfulfilled.

"We dispose of information that certain interested forces in Moscow are seeking to send the already signed intergovernmental agreement for ratification to the State Duma, with a view to eventually blockade the document. That is exactly why we asked in Washington for imposing an international control over the realization of the army's withdrawal agreement," the deputy Moldovan speaker said.

Moldova is speaking not for the removal of Lieutenant General Lebed or the Army staff, but of its armaments and machinery. "As for the military staff, the officers could be enlisted to the National Army in case they agree to take an oath of allegiance and perform their duties honestly," Andronic emphasized.

On NATO, Moldovan Neutrality

AU2811175194 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 25/11/1994—The deputy chairman of the Moldovan parliament, Nicolae Andronic, does not rule out a possibility of Moldova's joining the NATO.

He said at today's news conference that this issue could be considered in perspective.

"So far, Moldova did not sign the CIS collective security treaty, thus having spoken for bilateral cooperation with all states. We participate in the "Partnership for Peace" programme, and must fulfill our commitments under it. And time will show if it makes sense to join NATO," he pointed out.

The number of NATO member countries tends to increase, he said, but Moldova should take into account the existing balance of opinions in the society, when some people urge to join the North-Atlantic Pact, and others are objecting.

"Do not forget: We have fixed neutrality in our Constitution, having declared our non-participation in military-political blocs. Therefore, should a necessity arise to join NATO or other blocs, appropriate referendums may be required," Nicolae Andronic said.

International Peacekeepers in Dniester

LD2811213794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1954 GMT 28 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kishinyov [Chisinau] November 28—Moldavia [Moldova] has called for sending international peace-keeping troops to the breakaway Dniester region.

Speaking at a session of the North Atlantic Assembly on Monday, Nikolae Andronic, head of the Moldavian delegation, said that "there is a real threat that the

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situation in the Dniester region may worsen, following Russia's unilateral cuts in its peace-keeping contingent there."

At the same time, he opposed the idea of establishing a Russian military base in the republic. "We are against the reorganisation of the 14th Army into a military base as General Aleksandr Lebed recently proposed. This is against the Moldavian constitution, which does not allow the presence of foreign troops on Moldavian soil," Andronic said.

"We are grateful to Russia, which scrupulously observed the 1992 agreement on conflict settlement in the Dniester region at the initial stage," he continued. However, later the Russian side violated the agreement by allowing Dniester separatists to establish three battalions in the exclusion zone, Andronic said. By reducing its peace-keeping contingent in the region Russia has violated the accords for the second time, he said.

"It is possible that by doing so Moscow wants to repeat what has happened in Georgia when the situation came to a head and local authorities turned to the Russian Army for help," Andronic said.

Snegur Signs EU Cooperation Agreement

LD2811190494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1609 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moldova and the European Union [EU] signed a partnership and cooperation agreement in Brussels Monday. According to the Interfax correspondent in Belgium, the document names priorities in cooperation between Moldova and the European Union, among them economic relations, human rights as well as finance, science and culture.

In his speech on the occasion President Mircea Snegur called it a history-making event in relations between Moldova and the European Union. He described the agreement as a recognition of the democratic processes taking place in Moldova.

Moldova appreciates the support of the European Union, he said, which was felt every time the country faced complex problems characteristic of any transitional period.

While favoring cooperation with European countries the president spoke of the need for economic cooperation within the CIS, especially keeping the eastern market for Moldovan goods.

Moldova firmly stands for a policy of neighborliness in the region, Snegur said. In this context he pointed to the recent agreements with Russia on the legal status, time and procedure of withdrawal of the 14th Russian army temporarily stationed in Moldovan territory. The president hoped the European Union would not remain indifferent to the way the process unfolds.

Communists Announce Intent To Boycott Elections

AU2811174894 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 25/11/1994—The Moldovan Communist Party has stated its intention to boycott the oncoming local elections in case the parliament passes the law on local state government in the variant suggested by the Moldovan leadership.

The party co-chair Vladimir Voronin has stated to INFOTAG that if the leaders of municipal and rural power bodies are appointed by the Moldovan leadership, as the draft law stipulates, then the all- republican Communist Party Committee shall call upon Communists and their followers to boycott such elections.

"The appointment of local leaders by Chisinau would contradict the national Constitution. With such a system, the local elections would be anti-democratic, and would not help bettering people's life in localities," Voronin stressed.

Official Confirms South Yemen Plane Sales

LD2811174194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The KOMMERSANT MOLDOVY newspaper reports the republic sold its MiG-29 fighters to South Yemen for a lot of money, which has been confirmed by Nikolae Andronic, deputy chairman of Moldova's parliament. He said the 34 planes sold had belonged to one of the Black Sea Fleet aviation regiments.

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Kyrgyzstan

Akayev on Russian Border Troops Role in CIS Defense

LD2811213694 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Askar Akayev of the Kyrgyz Republic received Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev, commander in chief of the Russian Federation Border Troops. The commander in chief of the Russian Border Troops arrived in Bishkek, on his way to Tajikistan, to hold talks with the republic's leaders on number of current issues relating to the activity of the Russian Border Troops group in Kyrgyzstan.

Welcoming his guest, Akayev recalled that in an interview he gave to the newspaper IZVESTIYA several months ago, he said that once Nikolayev took over the post of Border Troops commander, the concept of a unified external CIS border began to be a reality. After all, if we are seeking a genuine economic union and economic integration, the internal borders between the states must be absolutely transparent, while the external ones must be unified and kept reliably closed. When it comes to implementing this concept, which has been supported by most CIS heads, the Russian Border Troops assume the main burden of guarding the external borders of the CIS members.

Nikolayev passed on greetings and best wishes from Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who noted Kyrgyzstan's consistent and principled stance on Central Asian regional problems, on the situation in Tajikistan, and on establishing a system to defend the external CIS borders.

President Askar Akayev made an official statement on a number of articles that have appeared in some newspapers in the republic claiming Russia is preparing to withdraw its border troops from Kyrgyzstan and hand over the task of guarding the border to local border guard units. The head of state described these articles as groundless and ill-intentioned inventions.

I would like to note, he said, that our position remains unchanged: We will keep the Russian Border Troops group in our sector, the Kyrgyz-Chinese border. This is the most effective and reliable way of guarding the border. Our position is logically bound up with the idea of integration within the CIS framework, and the idea of collective safety for the CIS countries. I am confident that all of us, the CIS countries, must arrive at the original method for guarding the external borders, a unified strategy, and a unified technology for ensure security.

We have taken the step of delegating the majority of our powers to guard the border to the central command of the Russian Border Troops, and we consider that this is the only right way. The experience of guarding our borders supports this. We have maintained a very effective border troops group, which performs its assignments to the highest standard. There is effectively no crack or no gap in our border. It is, as the saying goes, under lock and key. In addition, the fact that our officers and soldiers serve in the Russian Border Troops group gives them a great deal in both professional and human terms. So we have no real problems with the Russian Border Troops. We have found a common language with them.

Askar Akayev and Andrey Nikolayev answered questions put by the Russian journalists accompanying the Border Troops commander in chief on his visit. In particular, answering a question about what contribution Kyrgyzstan makes to guarding the border, Akayev said that under the bilateral agreement with Russia our republic finances 20 percent of the maintenance costs of the Russian Border Troops and fulfills this obligation to the letter. In addition, many citizens of Kyrgyzstan serve in the Border Troops and thus make their own contribution to guarding the border.

Andrey Nikolayev added that 20 percent of the personnel were on contract, and that many soldiers from Kyrgyzstan also serve in the Russian Border Troops elsewhere. He also said that several agreements to ensure that the border troops can operate normally have been signed and are being carried out well within the framework of the CIS. They cover preferential shipping of equipment, ammunition and other necessary freight, material and technical provisioning of the border troops on preferential terms, and so on.

State Secretary Rustembekov, who heads the presidential administration; Defense Minister Subanov; Finance Minister Nanayev; Romanov, the Russian ambassador to Kyrgyzstan; Major-General Basko, commander of the Russian Border Troops group in our republic; and other officials took part in the president's meeting with the commander in chief.

ILO Supports Economic Reform Conference in Bishkek

LD2811193794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1627 GMT 28 Nov 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The International Labor Organization [ILO] has supported Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev's proposal on holding an international conference on the economic security and social consequences of economic reforms in the countries with a transitional economy in the Kyrgyz capital city of Bishkek. Besides the International Labor Organization, the conference is expected to be attended by the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Trade Union.

This news was revealed to Interfax by head of the presidential legal department Daniyar Narymbayev. He

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said that the Kyrgyz President had fears lest the neglect of the social factor and social stratification during the implementation of the reforms might lead to social tremors.

Akayev attaches great importance to cooperation with the International Labor Organization which is ready to help Kyrgyzstan set up a center for employment and vocational training, and for tackling the problems of unemployment and export of workforce. IF [Interfax] Note: Akayev was the first CIS leader to visit the headquarters of the International Labor Organization in 1992. By now Kyrgyzstan has ratified 49 covenants of the International Labor Organization, which entitles it to comprehensive assistance from this organization.

Foreign Minister on International Relations

LD2811180794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1601 GMT 28 Nov 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Kyrgyz Foreign Ministry will strengthen security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, attract financial and technical assistance from the outside to create a market economy, as well as will help democratization in the republic and protect the rights and freedoms of its citizens. The statement was made in Bishkek by the republic's Foreign Minister Roza Otunbayeva addressing a meeting devoted to the 50th anniversary of the Kyrgyz Foreign Ministry.

She spoke in favour of Kyrgyzstan's participation in all security structures, existing within the framework of the CIS, the United Nations, the CSCE and the Council for North Atlantic Cooperation.

Otunbayeva reaffirmed Bishkek's intention to join the NATO "Partnership for Peace" program and said that the work over the presentation document and the individual program for cooperation with NATO is soon to be finalized.

Speaking about the nuclear problems, Otunbayeva said that Bishkek favors full cessation of nuclear testings and transformation of Central Asia into a nuclear-free zone. She also said that in March 1995 at the world conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Kyrgyzstan will advance an initiative to extend the treaty indefinitely.

Speaking about foreign-economic priorities of Kyrgyzstan, Otunbayeva said that the relations with Russia are of top priority importance for the republic.

Also of priority importance for Bishkek are relations with the countries of Central Asia—Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan. Cooperation with Central Asian states are a factor of regional security capable to cause an early settlement of conflict in Tajikistan and around it, she said.

Otunbayeva drew special attention to the role played by China, which, as she said, "guarantees peace, stability and development of the Central Asian states".

Otunbayeva said that neighborly relations and active trade and economic contacts with Turkey, Iran and Pakistan affect favorably the development of Kyrgyzstan.

She favored the development of all-round relations with the Federal Germany, Britain and other European countries. "Europe has invited Kyrgyzstan for cooperation," she said. "But it remains a virgin land for us," said the Kyrgyz foreign minister.

Speaking in detail about the Kyrgyz-US relations, Otunbayeva said that the United States is rendering an all-round assistance to the economic and democratic reforms carried out by Bishkek. Cooperation in the sphere of international politics and security in the region transformed our relations into an open dialogue based on the principles of equality, she said.

Otunbayeva said that soon the Kyrgyz Foreign Ministry will submit to parliament a strategic concept for foreign-policy activities.

Tajikistan

Rakhmanov, Joint Venture Director Discuss Gold Production

LD2811220894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1941 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tajikistan will be creating favorable conditions for foreign investments on mutually-beneficial terms. The statement was made in Dushanbe Monday [28 November] by President Emomali Rakhmanov at a meeting with the commercial director of Commonwealth and British Minerals company, the head of the mixed Zeravshan Gold Company Richard Wilkins.

Wilkins told the president that the joint venture he heads will start producing gold at the end of 1995. Between 1996 and 1998 it plans to increase annual production from 4.5 to 10-12 tons.

In 1993 Tajikistan extracted less than three tons.

According to Wilkins, today Zeravshan has got down to the first stage of extracting and processing gold at deposits in Leninabad region, North Tajikistan.

Rakhmanov expressed hope that the increasing gold production will help largely stabilize the national economy and attract foreign investors to develop Tajik natural resources.

He assured the British businessman that the political conditions in the country are favorable for expanding

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production and the Tajik leadership will do its utmost to improve them resolving all domestic problems by peaceful political ways.

Russian General's Statement on Tajik-Afghan Border

LD2811194394 Dushanbe Tajik Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 28 Nov 94

[Statement issued by Russian Lieutenant General Anatoliy Chechulin, commander of the group of Russian border troops in Tajikistan, on 27 November 1994—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border remains complex. It has become particularly acute in the Darvazskiy district of Gorniy Badakhshan Autonomous Region. Up to 600 guerrillas of the armed Tajik opposition have gathered in the Afghan villages of Flen, Nusai, Mohinau, Zangerab, and in the Javai gorge. They are actively reconnoitering the possibilities for crossing from Afghanistan into the Gorniy Badakhshan Autonomous Region to make their winter quarters there at a later date.

The personnel of the group of Russian border troops in this sector of Tajikistan cut short two or three attempts by the armed opposition to make the crossing every day. Lone envoys sent out by the armed groups are reconnoitering for foodstuffs and guerrilla bases in the Badakhshan region. For example, Gayur, who heads one armed group, used the threat of reprisals in the village of Kalayhum in an attempt to get foodstuffs and medicines from the residents for his guerrillas, who are located in the Afghan village of Nusai. At the same time, the armed opposition envoys are attempting to spread propaganda to set the local population against the border troops units.

The Russian border troops will continue to cut short - in decisive and tough manner - illegal guerrilla operations on the border and around the areas where these units are deployed. All responsibility for the consequences will rest with the opposition leaders and with the official Afghan authorities in Darvaz district in the Islamic State of Afghanistan in the zone of responsibility where the armed groups are located.

In view of the historical ties between the peoples of Russia and Badakhshan, the command of the Russian border troops is investigating the possibility of offering humanitarian aid, especially foodstuffs and clothing, for the most impoverished members of the population in the border villages of Darvazskiy district.

Warns of 'Illegal Actions' by Militants

LD2811121894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1128 GMT 28 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe November 28 TASS—The command of Russian border troops in Tajikistan expressed serious concern over the sharply deteriorating situation at the Pamir direction of the Tajik-Afghan border, especially at its Darvaza section.

Lieutenant-General Anatoliy Chechulin, commander of Russian border troops in Tajikistan, told ITAR-TASS on Monday [28 November] that up to 600 gunmen of the Tajik armed opposition massed in the Afghan villages of Flen, Nusai, Mohinau, and Zangria as well as the Dzhisky Gorge, bordering the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous area in Tajkikstan. They intend to cross from Afghanistan into the Tajik territory in the Pamirs for subsequent stationing during winter time.

According to the general, "Russian borderguards thwart two or three crossings of armed militants daily at this direction. Some messengers of armed groups try to collect foodstuffs and medicines for their gunmen who are in the Afghan village of Nusai, among residents of the Darvaza district by threats.

"At the same time, they conduct agitation work to egg local population on border troops of Russia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan, guarding the border there under the agreement on collective security of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States," the general noted.

Chechulin stressed that Russian troops will resolutely and firmly thwart, in future too, illegal actions by Tajik and Afghan mujahideen on the border and around Russian units. "All the responsibility for consequences rests on the leadership of the irreconcilable opposition as well as Afghan authorities in the Darvaza district of Afghanistan, where armed groups of the Tajik Islamic Revival Movement are stationed," the commander noted.

At the same time, the general underlined again that "borderguards did not and do not interfere in the domestic conflict in Tajikistan and stand out for friendship between borderguards and local population, taking into account historic relations between the peoples of russia and the Gorno-Badakhshan area".

Uzbekistan

Cooperation Agreement With South Korea Signed

LD2911062894 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Russian 0245 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A memorandum on mutual cooperation was signed on 28 November between the Uzbek Foreign Economic Relations Ministry and the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Energy of the Republic of Korea. A. Shaykhov, Uzbek first deputy foreign economic relations minister and (Yong Wu Ro), director of the trade and sales development department at the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Energy of the Republic of Korea, signed the document. Representatives of the Korean-Uzbek committee on trade and economic cooperation, whose visit to our republic had prompted the meeting, participated.

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President Raises Pensions, Sickness Benefit

LD2811204994 Tashkent Radio Mashal in Uzbek 1000 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Decree by the president of Uzbekistan on an increase in all types of pension for the population of Uzbekistan:

With the aim of ensuring social support for pensions:

1. The minimum size of labor pension in Uzbekistan from 1 December 1994 is to be set at 135 soms a month.

2. All types of current pensions, including those for people who have been invalids since childhood, and benefits for the elderly and citizens unfit for work, are to be increased by 20 percent.

3. The expenditures involved in implementing this decree are to be covered out of the social security fund.

4. Supervision over the fulfillment of this decree is to rest with the Uzbek Cabinet of Ministers.

[signed] Islam Karimov, president of Uzbekistan.

UN To Observe Elections; Details on Candidates Given

LD2811202394 Tashkent Radio Marshal in Uzbek 1000 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The preparations for the 25 December Uzbek parlimentary elections continue. Acceding to a request from the Uzbek Government, representatives from the United Nations are to participate in the elections to the Supreme Assembly as observers, Khalid Malik, head of the UN mission in our republic, announced. At the same time, another request has been sent to an American non-government organization, the International Foundation on Elections. This organization will help us to conduct the elections in clear observance of international norms and rules.

As we have already reported, the Central Election Commission has registered candidates for our republic's Supreme Assembly. As far as the breakdown of candidates is concerned, there are 247 from the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, 146 candidates from the Homeland Progress party, and 250 others are representatives of the hakimiyat [local/regional administration] organizations. Sixty-two of the 643 candidates are deputies in the current Supreme Council. Out of all the registered candidates, 438 are members of th People's Democratic Party, and 115 are members of the Homeland Progress Party. Twenty-eight percent of candidates are aged under 40.

Only 21 candidates have just a secondary education; the rest have a higher or incomplete higher education. There are 50 women candidates. The Supreme Assembly candidates represent 15 ethnic groups living in our republic; in other words, there is equal treatment for all ethnic groups in our country.

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Azerbaijan

Aliyev Wants ICO To Discuss Karabakh Issue

LD2811192494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1627 GMT 28 Nov 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Azerbaijan could use political and economic aid from the Islamic Conference organization, Geydar Aliyev told ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] Secretary General Hamid al-Ghabid. IF [Interfax] Note: al-Ghabid visited Azerbaijan on his tour of Moslem countries which had once been Soviet republics. He called on refugee camps and conferred with Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov.

Aliyev believes that the ICO must debate shortly the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and take an appropriate decision.

An Islamic Conference summit is scheduled to be held in Casablanca, Morocco, in the first half of December. The foreign ministers are scheduled to meet on December 11 and the heads of state on December 13.

Al-Ghabid described the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict as a major issue on the Casablanca agenda. He said that the Islamic Conference intended to denounce the Armenian aggression and call for restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity but would not impose any sanctions on Armenia as long as CSCE-mediated talks continued on the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

Al-Ghabid said that the Islamic Conference would take steps against the aggressor if the CSCE talks failed.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Nicaragua

NC2811184194 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Center has disclosed that Azerbaijan and Nicaragua have signed a protocol for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The protocol was signed in New York on 20 November. Guliyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, and Salazar, first secretary of the Nicaraguan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, signed the protocol on behalf of their countries.

Police Seize Weapons, 119 Coup Suspects

LD2811161694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1453 GMT 28 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku November 28 TASS—The Azerbaijani law enforcement bodies have confiscated a large amount of weapons, including armoured vehicles, artillery guns and grad missile launchers in a sweeping operation following the 3-4 October failed coup, the Interior Ministry said on Monday [28 November].

Interior Ministry officials said at their meeting today that several dozen automatic guns were found in the house of ex-premier Surat Guseynov. Guseynov is accused of destabilising the situation in Azerbaijan, and in particular in exacerbating the bread crisis to line his pockets. According to some information, the ex-premier is hiding away in Russia. The participants in the meeting demanded the extradition of all rebels hiding away in Georgia and Russia.

Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev stressed that "the coup attempt was the result of the events from more than six years ago, which had caused Azerbaijan to lose a considerable part of its territory." He believes this happened because Azerbaijan did not have its own armed forces until recently, while various armed groups, under the pretext of fighting for the liberation of the Republic, "pursued their own selfish goals and fought for power." "These criminal groups have inflicted serious damage upon the Azerbaijani people, not less than that caused by Armenian armed units," Aliyev added.

However, "people have shown their political maturity and demonstrated their ability to defend the country's statehood and independence," the president said. Thanks to their courage, "the attempt of a state coup in Azerbaijan failed," he added.

Earlier today, the Azerbaijani public prosecutor's office said that it has undeniable proof of the involvement of top officials in the attempted coup in October.

Law enforcement bodies have arrested 119 people suspected in anti-government activities, including former Minister of Agriculture Muzamil Abdullayev who was supposed to head a new government and ex-Minister of National Security Nariman Imranov, acting public prosecutor Eldar Gasanov said. Gasanov said that top cabinet members were also involved in the conspiracy, including former Prime Minister Surat Guseynov, members of the Security Ministry, the Defence Ministry and the Interior Ministry.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Statement Rejects Abkhaz Independence

LD2811140394 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 0910 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi [no date as received]—Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze issued a statement yesterday which says:

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A new constitution of Abkhazia was adopted 26 November declaring Abkhazia a sovereign republic and a subject of international law. Vladislav Ardzinba was "elected" president of the self-declared republic. The "decision" concerning Abkhazia's status, the new constitution, the reorganization of power structures, and the declaration of independence was adopted by a "parliament" from which deputies representing the Georgian population and members of other peoples who had lived in Abkhazia were expelled. Therefore, it ignores the opinion of the deputies representing the majority of Abkhazia's multiethnic population.

As the Georgian delegation's memorandum issued at the Geneva talks of 15-18 November 1994 points out, the Abkhaz side and the reactionary forces which support it are wasting the opportunity for a constructive solution of the conflict in Abkhazia by constantly violating their obligations and attempting to legalize a reactionary political regime guilty of the genocide and ethnic cleansing of the Georgian population of Abkhazia.

As a result of the ethnic cleansing and genocide of the Georgian population, over 6,000 people have been killed, prominent political figures, representatives of science and culture, and journalists have been executed, doctors and teachers have been brutally tortured, thousands of women, old people, and children have been left disabled after tortures and outrages, and over 200,000 Georgians have fled appalling terror, leaving behind them on mountain paths children and old people who had succumbed to exposure and exhaustion.

In an effort to forcibly alter the demographic composition of Abkhazia, to destroy or expel almost half of its population—ethnic Georgians—to declare independence ignoring the opinion of Abkhazia's multiethnic population, the separatists and the forces which support them have unleashed a war which ended in tragedy not only for the Georgians but also for the Abkhaz. Unwilling to be associated with a criminal regime, many of them fled from Abkhazia together with representatives of other peoples. Over four-fifths of the population of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia are now living outside Abkhazia.

By blatantly violating the UN Security Council's resolutions and the quadripartite agreement, which they also signed, the separatists did everything to block the return of the displaced people. Their return would have frustrated the plans to legalize the illegal regime and hold a so-called referendum endorsing self-declared independence.

Security Council resolutions, decisions by the supreme bodies of the CSCE and the CIS, statements by the president and the government of the Russian Federation categorically reject any attempt to redraw the borders of the Republic of Georgia.

The UN secretary-general's report of 3 March 1994 says that "the Abkhaz side has been clearly given to understand that independence gained by armed force is unacceptable for the international community."

The separatists' attempt to declare the creation of an independent state cannot be justified even in theory, since it would mean encouraging armed conflicts in democratic UN member-states and appeasing a bunch of political adventurers. This would plunge the modern international community into chaos and turn the world into a battlefield for numerous armed conflicts.

Recent events in Abkhazia have clearly demonstrated that it is not an ethnic conflict that is taking place there but an attempt by political adventurers to satisfy their ambitions by manipulating the national feelings of their own people.

Once they ascertained that their reactionary and aggressive regime could not be legalized through talks on a full-scale conflict settlement in Abkhazia, the separatists and the forces supporting them decided to wreck the talks, knowing in advance that the Republic of Georgia would not negotiate with an Abkhaz side representing an independent state and subject of international law. This position was also shared by the other participants in the talks—the United Nations, the CSCE, and the Russian Federation.

The separatists' actions are a challenge to the entire international community. They eliminate the opportunity for a peaceful conflict settlement and thwart the efforts of the participants in the peace process of conflict settlement in Abkhazia.

The Republic of Georgia appeals to the UN Security Council, the CSCE, the heads of CIS member-states and, above all, the Government of the Russian Federation to react without delay to this latest provocative step by aggressive separatism and to take effective measures, up to and including the imposition of sanctions, envisioned by the UN Charter and the fundamental documents of the CSCE and the CIS.

Will Not Negotiate With 'Independent' Abkhazia

LD2811122594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1110 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Georgia's leader Eduard Shevardnadze has assessed the proclamation of sovereignty by Abkhazia's parliament as "an attempt by separatists to set up an independent state." This is said in a statement put out by Shevardnadze's press-service Sunday [27 November].

On November 26, parliament of Abkhazia, which has, in fact, seceded from Georgia following an armed conflict adopted a constitution, proclaiming Abkhazia a sovereign entity, subject to international law.

The statement notes that "Georgia will not negotiate with Abkhazia as an independent state."

Georgia is certain, the document notes, that the UN Security Council, CSCE, CIS states, above all the Russian Federation will react without delay to the new "irresponsible provocative step by separatists and will

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adopt effective measures, up to sanctions, envisaged by the UN Charter, to curb the arrogant separatists."

Leaders Hope Russia Will Not Approve Abkhaz Constitution

LD2811130694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1241 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, November 28 RIA—The leadership of Georgia hopes that Russia will not approve the new Constitution, adopted by the Abkhazian parliament, which proclaims Abkhazia a sovereign Presidential republic, Ambassador of Georgia to Russia Valerian Advadze said in an interview to RIA "Novosti'-'. Georgia is now waiting for Moscow's official reaction to the "unlawful decision of the Abkhazian parliament", Advadze stated, expressing confidence that Moscow will support the territorial integrity of Georgia.

On November 26, a session of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet adopted a new Constitution which proclaims Abkhazia a Presidential Republic. It was noted during the discussion of the document that Abkhazia will continue the talks with Georgia on problems of interstate relations.

Russia, Georgia Call For Abkhazia Summit's Postponement

AU2811214494 Paris AFP in English 2121 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Geneva, Nov 28 (AFP)—Georgia and Russia have called for the postponement of a summit aimed at resolving the impasse over Tbilisi's breakaway Abkhazia region, a UN diplomat said here Monday [28 November].

Georgia was asking that the summit, organised by UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali for Friday, be held some time in the second half of December and Russia was backing the move, the diplomat told AFP. [passage omitted]

Dudayev Thanks Abkhaz President For Asylum Offer

LD2911115394 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1400 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi (IPRINDA)—IPRINDA has learned from well-informed sources that, despite the difficult situation in Chechnya, Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev has congratulated Vladislav Ardzinba on the adoption of a new constitution and his election as president of an independent Abkhaz republic. Dudayev spoke highly of Ardzinba's and the Abkhaz people's support at a time when Chechnya is repelling Russia's armed aggression and expressed gratitude for the sending of experienced Abkhaz fighters who are fighting selflessly in the battles near Groznyy.

The message says that if the leaders of other Caucasian republics pursued the same policy as Ardzinba, there would be a different situation in the Caucasus, and Chechnya would not be in danger.

As regards the statement by North Ossetian President Akhsarbek Galazov that the armed conflict in Chechnya is Russia's internal affair, Dudayev expressed regret in this connection and asked Ardzinba to expand contacts with the North Caucasian republics.

Dudayev also expressed gratitude to Ardzinba for his pledge to take in Dudayev and his supporters in the event of undesirable developments in Chechnya.

Shevardnadze Appeals to Russia, Turkmenistan for Gas

LD2911114294 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1000 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi (IPRINDA)—Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze devoted his regular interview on 28 November almost entirely to economic problems and the energy crisis.

In Shevardnadze's opinion, the meeting of donor-states in France on 21 and 22 November played a positive role in helping Georgia emerge from the economic and energy crisis.

Discussing the budget, Shevardnadze said that by 25 November 1994 budget revenue had reached 5.5 trillion coupons. Petroleum product sales had contributed 500 billion coupons to the budget. He noted that the Georgian gas department's debt was 40 trillion coupons.

In the last two months the customs department paid into the budget an amount that should have been contributed to the budget over a period of 10 months. [sentence as received]

Discussing the energy crisis and the accident on the gas pipeline in Uzbekistan, Shevardnadze said that due to reasons beyond the Georgian side's control, the necessary measures to repair the damage had not been taken in time.

Following Boris Yeltsin's visit to Georgia, Russia should have granted Georgia credit worth 20 billion rubles, part of which should have been used to buy between 300,000 to 400,000 tonnes of fuel oil. However, due to banking problems, this credit did not reach Georgia.

Under a Georgian-Iranian agreement, Iran should have supplied Georgia with about a billion cubic meters of gas (in fact, the figure is 600 million cubic meters). However, due to weather conditions in Iran, this did not take place.

According to Shevardnadze, the gas suppliers have the moral right to stop supplies to Georgia. He also said that he had appealed to the president of Turkmenistan to do

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everything to resume fuel [gas] supplies. There is information that the repair work on the pipeline will be completed in the next two days.

The Georgian head of state has also sent a letter to the Russian president asking him to help Georgia with gas.

Shevardnadze reported that Georgian Deputy Prime Minister Zurab Kervalishvili would visit Ashgabat in the near future to clarify issues relating to gas supplies in 1995. If necessary, I will personally go to Ashgabat, said Shevardnadze.

Discussing recent events in Chechnya, Shevardnadze noted that countries should solve domestic issues and problems independently, without external interference. I express regret with heartfelt pain over the fact that people are dying in the neighboring republic, concluded Shevardnadze.

Security Service Wants Control of All Key Exports

LD2911093194 Tbilisi SAKINFORM in Russian 2055 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] [no dateline as received]—Igor Giorgadze, the head of the Georgian Security Service has told journalists that it is mainly mafia structures that are—under the guise of reforms and market relations—involved in the export from the republic of strategic produce such as tea, citrus fruits, and alcoholic beverages. Meanwhile, he said, the state has in fact been deprived of the opportunity to use this produce in the interests of the population. Therefore, the head of the Security Service believes that the government should concentrate in its hands all the levers controlling export from the country. He said that the Security Service is ready to carry out this difficult task.

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